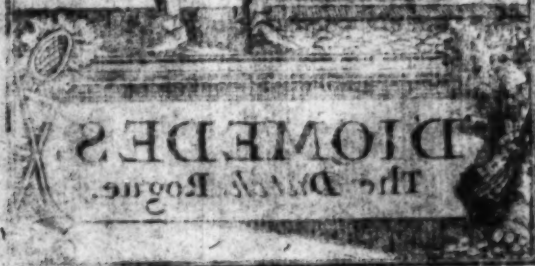


DIOMEDES,  
*The Dutch Rogue.*



DIONIDES  
The DANCE ROGUE.



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# The Dutch Rogue

or,

Gufman of Amsterdam

*Traced from the Craddle to the Gallows :*

*Being, the Life, Rise, and Fall of*

D. de Lebechea &

DECAY'D MERCHANT.

*Containing many fraudulent Practises,  
notorious Villanies, and audacious  
Enterprizes, with their various e-  
vents.*

Illustrated with Copper-plates.

---

*Out of Nether-dutch.*

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AUSONIUS de variet. Fortunæ.

Is qui condiderat, postquam non repperit aurum,  
Aptavit collo quem repperit laqueum.

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LONDON, Printed by A. M. for Greg. Hill,  
1683.

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2010年10月15日

22

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

1900-1901

St. John's, N. B., 1891.

1019570

REC'D - MARCHANT

Counting my 100th year

1891

Engraving, with title page.

Illustrated with Copper-plates.

1980

1890

1940-1941

... 1940 ...


1940

1. The first part of the document is a letter from the President of the United States to the Congress, dated January 1, 1861. It is a copy of the original letter, and is signed by Abraham Lincoln.

1890

1961-1962

## To the READER.

 *Very day is a Mirror,*  
*and the World is self a*  
*Stage, whereon we see*  
*the Variety of Fortune*  
*lively display'd, the*  
*Vicissitudes of Dignities and Prefer-*  
*ments, the Alienations of Thrones and*  
*Scepters. The vast Globe of the Earth*  
*(according to the Hypothesis of Co-*  
*pernicus, upon which the Magnetic*  
*Philosophy is, or seems to be founded,*  
*is in perpetual motion; and consequent-*  
*ly all visible Creatures which have*  
*their Oecema or habitacle here, seem*  
*also subject to the same Instability.*  
*This Opinion of his, altho received by*  
*few, yet if taken in some sence is not*  
*so strange, to wit, That the Earth*  
*and Temporal Delights, in which some*  
*place their Summum bonum, or*  
*Chie-*

Chiefest Good, are subject to Change, rolling and turning upon slender Occasions and less powerfull Causes, apt to rise, and not unapt to fall; so that all the Race of Mankind are as it were altered by a Secondary motion. Some times it is conspicuous in one and the same Man to be advanced from Poverty to Wealth, promoted from Shame to Honour and elevated from the Dungeon to a Throne, and on an instant depressed from Riches to Extreme Wants, abased from the highest pitch of Reputation to the sink of Dishonour and reduced from the Scepter and Chair of State to the Oar and Galley. Remarkable was that Change of C. Marius, a Person of obscure Parentage, and beholden to his valour for his Advancement, who was for 6 years together Consul of Rome, and in the 7th went about to ask an Alms. No less worthy of observation is that of the famous  
Duc

Duc de Luna, who carried Incon-  
stancy in his Name and Title, who was  
raised from a poor and mean Fortune to  
be a Favourite and Minion of the most  
puissant King of Spain, yet in a mo-  
ment, when in the height of Gran-  
dour, was beheaded upon the Scaffold,  
and his bodie suffered to ly three days  
in the streets without Burial. Small  
was the intervall of time between the  
Royal Favours of that great Persian  
Monarch in conferring such honours  
upon Haman, and the direfull effects  
of his Displeasure, which hurl'd him  
out of the World, by a scandalous and  
ignominious Death: short, I say, was  
the time between the Queens Banquet  
and the Gibbet. But what need we go  
so far as Rome, Madrid, or Shu-  
shan, or search old Annals and Re-  
gisters for an Instance, when as every  
Man is either more or less to himself  
an Example of Change, a Mirror of  
In-

*Inconstancy and the Tennis-ball of Fortune, who wheeling about throws down with her left hand what she sets up with her right. But all the Wiles and Projects that Ambition and Covetousness use for Implements in aspiring to those ends they aim at, were fitter to write whole volumes of, than to go about to recount them in a Preface to a Schedule of such mean Importance as this little book is. Many times they miss of their aim who nevertheless seem to have laid a fair Foundation, and manage their Project well and prudently to the very Catastroph of all, and as often do they who are careless and remiss, in the midst of their Security and Supine negligence exchange Fortunes with the former, and therefore fitly said Ausonius,*

*Thesauro invento qui limina  
mortis inibat,*

*Liquit*

Liquit ovans laqueum, quo  
periturus erat

At qui, quod terræ abdiderat,  
non repperit aurum,

Quem laqueum invenit, ne-  
xuit, & periit.

*We have here a Precedent of one sub-  
ject to many Changes, raised as it  
were from a Dunghil to the Spire of  
Fortune, on whom she has shown all  
the Effects of Chance and Change.  
The name under which he is shrouded  
may seem to diminish the Credit of the  
matter, yet we concluded it better to  
be a little injurious to our selves in being  
liable to such a censure, than to give  
the very and true name of the Partie  
himself, which might crack the Re-  
putation of many honest Friends of his,  
who bear the same name, and their  
Posterity in after times, who might  
also receive some disadvantage and ble-  
mish*

ish by it: for the Rule of a Satyrist is equally proper to us, *Parcere Personis, loqui de vitiis*; To spare the Persons & treat of the Vice.

Others there were also, either imbarqued with, or interrested in him, whose real names we have supplied either with *Anagrams*, or otherwise, for the like reasons; for it is not our Province to cauterize the whole Stock for the impiety of one Rotten Branch, for so we might blast the best of Mankind.

The Scope, I beleerve, of the Dutch Writer was only to give a caution how to beware of such as under fair pretences of Religion, which some make a Cloak for Knavery; endeavour to defraud the World, as also that the Golden appearances and glittering shows by which many are deceived, may not prove a stumbling-block to such as are simple and of an upright dealing;



ling; whereas many fraudulent and obscure devices are laid open to the view of all.

Nor need it be censured as any detriment to Merchants, for whom all the World hath a special veneration; since the best Society in the World had an impious Member, and if it be lawfull to meddle with Holy Writ in a Prophane Treatise, we may instance how that Judas was included in the number of the 12 Disciples; or if we may be so worthy as to record or turn to the serious Histories of the Public-weal of Rome, we find a Catiline, a Lælius, Yea, a Nero among the Emperours; was it then a shame for a Theodosius or a Constantine to have such a Predecessor? for Wisdom judges of them as Men, not as Emperours, and regards the Person, not the Condition of men. But what have we to do with Emperours?

BUT

But we had almost forgot to say  
something by way of Apology as to  
the Protocol in the Title Page, for  
that some may take offence at the name  
of a Dutch Rogue; but since we  
meet with an English, a Spanish  
and a French Rogue written by the  
Natives of those three Countreys  
which never, that we could ever  
hear, gave dislike to any particular  
Person, so we hope this will not be  
offensive to any of the Dutch Nations  
to whom we are too much obliged to  
cast any asperston upon it. Farewell.

Gravefend,

May 18. 1683.

S.P.

## T H E

Life, Rise, and Fall of the  
DECAYED MERCHANT.

**W**Hen Triumphant *Holland* like the victorious *Tritonia* was mounted on her pompous Chariot, molded of *Spanish Silver* by the valorous Enterprises of her renowned Admiral *Peter P. Heyn*; and her fatal solitudes seemd to give way, and allow her access to the Temple of Joy: there dwelt in the famous City of *Amsterdam* one *Justinus*, a youth, whose mind upon the report of this most gallant Exploit, and the noise of such an invaluable prize seem'd to be bewitched out of the bounds of Continen-  
 cy; The universal display of an archievement so noble, created in him another frame and temper of spirit, insomuch that it bereaved him totally of the blessed fruition of Contentment in his proper vocation; adjudging it too mean a *Medium* to render him a participant of so big a Fortune; and an occupation not able to do him the least service in the acquirement of his ambitious ends: so that contrary to the vulgarly known (yet solid) Document of *Apelles*, *Let not the Shoemaker go beyond his Last*, he arrives at this Conclusion, That

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## 2      *The Life, Rise, and Fall*

some other course must be taken whereby he may attain to the scope he aim'd at: yet all his Resolutions were as impracticable, as his End was vain and inaccessible; to carry it on in Honour and Valour, was a sphere too sublime and tedious for him to move in, as Theft and Cheating was base and perillous; The former difficult, because he was not indow'd with that acuteness of a *Genius*, which is requisite in endeavouring to gain the ascendant of those with whom he would willingly be had in repute; and the Party in perpetual danger of discovery, and the sequel. Thus the more he consulted with his Wife, the less satisfaction and product he reaped from a continual study and screwing of his Brain; so that sometimes to indulge his disquieted mind with ease and cessation of thoughts, he would betake himself to a Temple hallowed to the name of *Bacchus*, to whom he as often prostituted himself a *Voluntary*. In this Temple was a Priestess who had great interest and acquaintance with a certain Lady, who lived in the neighbourhood. These two frequently keeping together, gave *Justinus* an Opportunity, now and then of seeing the latter, till at last he was caught in Cupids net. As for her form, she (in his judgement) surpass'd all that ever he had seen in his life time. To give you a relation of his deportment were a needless undertaking.

*of the Decay'd Merchant.*

king, since the World affords us so many Copies, in those who are possessed with that bewitching *Demon*, although every one have not the good Success our worthy Patient had, for greatly to his satisfaction he entered into *Conjunctions* with his imagined Deity, and had indeed a competent sum of money to boot, whereupon in an honest and temperate way he might have lived a contented life.

Thus having obtained the full enjoyment of his desires, was in some measure content with the Merchandise he had purchased with the surrender of his freedom; hoping that his gains in time would be a hopefull Issue, as indeed it was, for shortly after she presented him with her pourtraiture, which he had moulded after the Original, and was so well imitated in lineaments and Symmetrie, that had not the Dimensions had imparity, it had been hard to determine which was the *Copied*, which the *Copy*, as far as regards the Figure: an offspring which seemed by the kind Heavens to be indowed with *Sprite* and *Livelyness*. But that his Fortune should not be too redundant in the effects of liberality, so soon as his son was produced from behind the Curtains of Time, his worthy Consort, as having perfected her Duty to him, and paid her Debts to Nature, expired her last, and took her leave of the World; which now

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involved the sad Father into so much Grief and Sorrow, that he was very prompt to submit himself to the Tomb: but far mistaken, for *Clothes* had yet a little Flax to draw before his fate would allow *Acropos* to break the thread.

The Child being born, his Father thought it a duty incumbent on him to baptize him, which he also did, and under a name wholly conformable to his then afflictions, which we are desirous for this time to waver, the more because we are not willing to give any offence to his Friends and Alliance, many of whom are still living, much less, to be the occasion of any disadvantage, or be injurious to their Estate or Reputation: but (notwithstanding the just merits of his wicked practises might not deserve it) we will shroud him under the name of *Diomedes de Lebechea*: which we borrow from an Appellative that exactly suits his drift and humour; for the word *Lebeche* imports as much as the *Southwest Wind*, to which he may be fitly compared, being vain and light in his thoughts and projects, and managing his affairs and actions without any Foundation; and as the Sun of Earthly Fortune sometimes shone with his acceptable rays upon his thoughts, being (as it were) Westerly, but wavering from the point again produced him (like a south wind) a shower of Tears,

*of the Decay'd Merchant.*

as is frequently conspicuous with those who settle their Foundations in the wind, not tilling nor cultivating their mind, but willingly content themselves with those weeds, which are the proper products of nature.

At first he grew up in Strength and health, being of a good and handsom Form, both in body and visage, and in every thing else promising enough; from which his father received no small complacency, but after that depth of grief and sorrow which he had upon the decease of his endeared consort, he began to comfort himself with the life of her only son and offspring. After a few years he put him out to School, where in a short time he had made himself master of Reading, Writing, Arithmetick and Merchants Accompts, partly by the Diligence of good Masters, and partly by the help of his own forwardness and wit. His Father, who hereat was well satisfied, determin'd after this his happy Progress, in that kind of Literature, to put him forth to some Trade or other, and in as much as he was in his Childhood very artificial at plating of hair, he judg'd it best to put him to a Perriwig-maker; as soon after he did to one at *Bruxels*: *Diomedes* had no great Contentment in this trade, thinking himself never able to gain so much by it, as would answer his

*The Life, Rise, and Fall*

Pleasures, or to maintain him at such a rate as he desired to live in, at once to enjoy both plenty and ease.

Scarcely was he arrived at the 14. Year of his age, before his Father got his *Quintus est*, and bad adieu to the World: and inasmuch as he lived a merry life, so it could not be supposed that he should leave much behind him, as he did not, save a Catalogue of Credit; which gave *Diomedes* little occasion of hopes to advance his future Fortune by his Patrimony: Yet still was he prompted with a groundless Opinion, as that something considerable might be reserved for him in the Cabinet of *Chance*, as usually is observable in many who are prone to judge according as they would willingly have it to fall out, and so was constant in considering with himself how he might quit that mean and irksome employment of his, and undertake some other course to bring him in a way to get riches, and live a splendid life. No measures he could imagine seemed better to like him than Merchandise, which he had often heard his Father speak of, who had consumed a considerable sum that way, by a negligent managment of his affairs therein: willing for that very reason to instruct his only son in some honest Mechanical Calling or other, as more stable and sure, though very much disagreeing with



with the inclination of the Youth.

Amongst several Projects he devised, one he pitch'd upon, which without much loss of time he put in practise; For, upon a morning betimes he rose up, and going into the Shop he privately took six, or seven of the best Perriwigs he could come at, which he put up. The evening before, he had expostulated very hard with his Master, to take one daies recreation or two, with some friends of his, who desired him to accompany them a litle on their Journey, which after some earnest entreatys his Master at last assented to, hoping according to the solemnity of his promise, he would return again in a day or two: But much on the contrary, for *Diomedes* took his last leave both of Master, Shop, Trade and Service, and came with all expedition to *Amsterdam*, with full intent to spend the remaining years of his youth there; And taking *Antwerp* in his way, he met with a good market for his goods, for he sold all his Perriwigs there, save onely one, which he kept for his own Nodde; and as soon as he came to *Amsterdam*, put himself into a suitable garb, purposing to apply himself to some Merchant or another, as by chance it fell very opportunely out: For, after he had been there a few daies, he accidentally fell into discourse with a Wine-

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Cowper which he met with in a Tavern : and after they had exchanged a few words he entered into an agreement with him for a certain sum of money, half of which he was to pay in hand , and that he should be instructed in that Mystery and Traffique , and during the time of his service to have his Diet and Lodging with his Master.

This Merchant had an only daughter, called *Emilia* , of a reasonable Stature , and a more than ordinary Beauty , which *Diomedes* took a great fancy for , though more for the circumstances of her purse than person; insomuch that he began to bend his study , how to please her ; which (as he was himselfe sensible of ) could not be with such ease accomplished , by one who had not an Estate to command , as some of his Corrivalls had ; however, *hap hazard*, he resolves to put the work in practise , and totally dedicated the sum of his inclinations to her , and under a colour of Vertue , Love and Fidelity he brought the business so far, that , he had fully insinuated himself into her favour , and began to assure himself that he would shortly become Master of her Estate. She manifested to him, by many mutual affirmations, a reciprocal kindness she had for him , and that nothing should obstruct the course of her affections , if he could but procure the Consent of her Father

ther to the Making up of the Match, *Diomedes*, now reckoning the Town more than half Storm'd, assumed the liberty shortly after to make the Overture and Proposals to her Father; though met with a Reply that put him into no small disorder, for she was absolutely denied him, and he threatned to boot that if ever he attempted the like afterward to be turned out into the wide world: *Diomedes* swore that this refusal should cost his Master dear, and that he would reward him with a recompence equivalent to this affront, cost what it would cost, as shortly after he was as good as his word: for,

Among the fellowship our enraged Lover was wont to keep company with, was a young man, whose parents dealt much in Salt, whom *Diomedes* seeing, was thereupon put in mind of a notable revenge; and making use of his opportunity, he battered with this youngman for two Barrels of Salt, giving him almost the value in wine, and the Overplus in money. The Salt thus bought, he had it privately convey'd into his masters Cellar, and poured into every Tun and Hogshead a competent quantity, so that the Wine seemed rather Brine than Juice of the Vine. Not long after the Merchant meeting with some customers, brought them home to give them a tast of

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some Wines he highly approved of ; he whose turn it was to tast first took a swindging draught, after which he was sensible that liquor was fitter to provoke thirst than to quench it, cried out, what Devils drink have I got here in my mouth? surely this is fetcht from *Styx* or *Cocytus*, or is it the piss of *Cerberus*, the dog of hell? Is this the wine you told of, Wine! Are these the Tears of *Bacchus*? sure his Godship has cried to think you have not given him his due, or lodg'd him here in the dark as not worthy of light; Nay Sir, keep this wine till Latter Lammas for me; beleeve me you may keep it yet a hundred years before it will stink if you salt it at this rate. The Merchant himself was no less astonish'd, being almost besides himself, in meeting with so strange a *Metamorphosis*. The first thing he did was to examin his servant whence it came; but he, who was never at a stand for want of Impudence, gave him a resolute answer, That he knew not: Probably, added he, it may be a divine Blessing that is light upon you above all others that deal in Wine, when as they in these dead times are fain to keep their Wine so long till it begins to stink, but you are out of danger of yours, it being well temper'd with Salt, which renders it a commodity not so easily damanified with  
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*of the Decay'd Merchant.*

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keeping as theirs is. Hereat his Master was in such a fury, that if those honest Gentlemen, in whose presence it happen'd, had not stop'd the course of his rage, he had sent him at one blow to Salute his Grandfir. The Master excusing himself in the best wise he could to his Customers, went to another Hoghead, which he found was no better then the first, and so on to every piece, one by one, but to his great astonishment found them all in the like *pickle*, being almost three Cellars full, and the best not worth a groat, where we will leave them to make their bargain.

The same evening *Diomedes* went to three Labourers, who had helpt him the day before to smuggle some Wines, gave um four Ducatoons a man, and told them that his Master had ordered it for their former help and service, and that about a moneth after he would have the like occasion, and would give them the same wages, provided they would by writing acknowledge that that money was given them for their past service, and that they would serve him again for the like sum: Or if they were not contented so, only to give a discharge under their hands for the money received; which last was accepted: whereupon *Diomedes* return'd to his Master, and boldly demanded his Daughter, the Master in a hot pas-

sion bad him be gone out of doors, or he would break his pate for him. *Diomedes* then to use the advantage he had against him, threatned to discover his Stealing of Custome, Excise, &c. if he would not give his assent to what he demanded; which the Master not much regarding but persisted still in his wonted humour, at last got him worsted out of his house. *Diomedes* immediately went to an Officer of Justice (whose duty it is, here, to take notice of such Delinquents) and informed him about his Masters practise, signifying the like to the Farmers and Commissioners of the Impositions of wine, who ruminated his Cellars from end to end, and thorowly examined the matter of the Labourers, that had been assisting in the running and conveyance of the Goods, adding well to the matter, by declaring upon what account they had received that money; which when they had thorowly inspected found the Vintner tardy, as well from the clear Confession of those men who had received the Money as from the number of the Pieces of wine he had in his Cellar which he had never entered; insomuch that these *Gravaminas* requiring an Expiation too heavy for him to bear, was fain to retire, and leave his Countinghouse and Goods to the Mercy of the Officers and Farmers of the Impositions.

Nei-

Neither did he ommit to make Complaint against the wicked practise of *Diomedes*, in damnifying his wine with salt, demanding Justice against him, and satisfaction for the Injury received; whom when he began to look for, found that he had made his escape, and taken his dear daughter along with him, (being as it seems over-sway'd by the vigour of Love) and about five hundred Ducats of Gold, which he no sooner perceived but he fell into a strange Fit, in which he lay several hours before he came to himself. The loss not only of his Wine and Money, but also of his only Child and Reputation, brought him into a Consumption, which cast him just to death's door: Nevertheless, desiring before his death that his daughter should be enquired after: if possibly by the sight of her, and the restitution of part of his Money, he might add a little to his Days; but finding no means to get her again, unless he would frankly forgive *Diomedes*, of those many crimes he was factious of, and so with his full consent ratify the Marriage between him and his daughter, he was forc'd to comply; and so accordingly they were call'd home, the Match in every point confirm'd and the young Couple received into their Fathers house and Favour; altho the Father notwithstanding all that Physicians could pra-

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scribe or apply expired his utmost ; and left *Diomedes* in full Possession of his Estate, which was no small cause of Joy to him. After the decease and Interrment of the old man, *Diomedes* mourned Court fashion, not in a purple weed, but in making many Jovial hours , every day holiday and good chear, leaving the direction and management of his Merchandise of wines (which he still continued) to the care of two servants of his , who served him as faithfully as ever he did his Master before him.

Neither was it indeed possible for *Diomedes* to leave the tricks he had learn'd of his Master, or Father in law: Nay, he esteem'd it a sin to pay full Excise for his Goods ; being ever ready to accomodate and deal with those that had a mind to smuggle ; and that not only with persons of the meanest rank , but also with the most eminent in the Town, some through an insatiable desire they had to wine , others who out of Generosities were so liberal to good fellowship and acquaintance , as that they were ashamed that it should be known at the Excise Office what wine they consumed. *Diomedes* considering this, playd upon the other hand, and made a mixture of his Wines with water.

*The old woman had not sought her daughter in the Oven had she not been there herself ; a proverb as true as ancient: Diomedes knowing*



ing himself never too guilty of Fidelity, must needs sometimes harbour and entertain some suspicion of the like deportment from his men, which even now have the same opportunities he had once himself; his Jealousie mov'd him to come upon them at unawares for several times one after another, but finding no ground for his Jealousie, he from thence forward repos'd more confidence in them than before, thinking for a certainty they did not transgress their Duty.

It happened on a time when he had occasion to deliver some Wines, which having brought into Lighters, before they came to the Boom ( or Water-bar ) it was lockt, so that they could not get through to the stream, and were fain for that night to keep aboard the Lighters and watch the Wines. This opportunity fell out very well for the servants, who invited four or five of their fellows to bouze a glass with them, who made not many refusals; so to't they went and were all equally paid off before the Sun rose, and although the Tuns were without Cocks or Spiggots, yet to supply that defect they made use of their Crane or Pipe, where-with they of that Mystery are wont to exhaust wine out of Casks, and made use of their hats till about midnight, when they found 2. or 3. foul glasses, which they rinc'd and made use of: these were in a perpetual motion.

tion till the morning began to appear and commanded their dissolution, and each to do his duty, although they were fitter to go to bed by far. When the Water-bar was open, they went forth in good order, but whither they knew not; till at last one of 'em espied a ship riding off in the stream, ready to set sail, concluded absolutely that that was the ship ordain'd to take in the Wine; and so one of them called out, Oho, the Fly boat, Ehey they aboard the ship saluted them with the like voice, and asked what they would have; We have brought here the Wine (quoth one of them) that our Master, *Mons. de Lebechea*, was to send aboard you, pray let us be discharged with the first, for we must be back again with all expedition. The Master of the ship seeing the Gentlemen between Hawk and Buffard, and so much wine presented him without the freight, he pittied them and took in the Present, and presently after both wind and weather favouring he fit sail for the *Taxel*, in Order to proceed on his voyage, and let the lighter and men find the way home. The men that were aboard the ship being all English, save the Master himself, thought that it was some Merchandize he had bought for himself, not well understanding the Netherdutch Language. But to return back again with the Lighter and guide them home; *Diomedes* seeing his men

in such a pickle began to fear all was not well. He asked them on what ship they had delivered; they told him aboard the English ship that lay (ready to set sail) off in the stream, being neither able to give any better description of the ship, or what she had in her stern. Hereat *Diomedes* was in such a passion that nothing could appease him, though all to no purpose; he went immediately to the Newbridge with his men, and with a pair of Oars went to enquire of all the ships that lay before the pales of *Amsterdam*, where he found nothing more than what he least sought; continuing still railing against his men who were in a condition fit to take a nap, needing neither *Diacodium* nor *Opium* for a provocative. At last *Diomedes* seeing an English Ketch, he made towards her and very bluntly asked them about the Wine they took in that Morning, and whether it belonged to them: The men swore they had not taken in any wine: *Diomedes* overswayd by his Fury jumpt out of the boat and aboard he went, bidding the Master to show what goods he had aboard, or he would brand him for a Rogue, and show what he had to do with him. The Englishman not a whit behind him, began to threaten him as fast, and told him that for his uncivility he would not resolve him in his doubt, but as he had Stigmatized him  
under

under the mark of a Rogue he would break the pate of the Rogue that said it: To be shon the words on both sides rose to that height, that they fell together by the Ears, and the Englishman with the help of his men gave *Diomedes* a gentle toss overboard to cool his Passion. the Ferryman seeing this, made all the hast he could to take *Diomedes* up, concluding then for a certainty that the Wine must be in that Vessel, & in that perswasion went in all hast to the Water-bailiff, to whom he made a large complaint, how the English man had taken in his wines, and abused him, &c. Whereupon the Gentleman went with *Diomedes*, who if he had given way to what *Diomedes* urg'd and aver'd, would have taken the English man into Custody. The Bailiff coming aboard the Vessel asked them if they had taken in any wine? requiring them to show what they had aboard: They made answer, That they were not obliged to show what they had aboard, adding that they were not under any duty or engagement to give them an account whether they had taken any wine aboard or no; that it concern'd not them if they had, for what they had was paid for, &c. These words made *Diomedes* the more suspicious, absolutely thinking himself in the right, together with what his men did affirm, that it must needs be that, and no other vessel, here-  
upon

*of the Decay'd Merchant.* 19

upon the Officer took the Master into Custody, at the Charge of *Diomedes*, who took it upon him, and bringing him ashore committed him close prisoner. But shortly after the English Master brought in a clear Exhibition, when, where and of whom he had bought the Wine, and that it was paid for, with which the Court were fully satisfied, and so granting him Inlargement, he was at liberty again; condemned also *Diomedes* in 300 gilders dammage, for hindering the ship on her Voyage, and for reparation of the credit of the Master whom he had so disgrac'd, by imprisoning him; which Fine was distributed in 3 parts, one part for the Aggrieved party, another for the Schout, or City Bailif, and a third to the use of the Poor: he was further ordered by the Court to pay all the Charges, which besides the great loss of wine that brought him to this inconveniency, he was perplexed now more than ever, threatening his men to lay all to their reckoning, and place it to their accompt; but finding they did not much value his threatening, and that he could not help himself much, he was fain to rest contented, and now and then wash away sorrow with a glass of wine.

*Emilia* his wife coming to hear of the business, was greatly dissatisfied, and could no longer enjoy her self so long as this Course

Course of life was held: she continually twitted him in the teeth with these things, ascribing the cause of all these misfortunes to his negligence and carelessness, many times repeating the great likelihood there was of their being brought to poverty and ruin, if he continued in Junketting and Company keeping; lamenting her direful face, and the unhappy hour that she first saw him: assuring him for the future that in case he would not attend his business with more diligence, she would never own, or regard him as her husband: and follow what courses she liked best; but *Diomedes*, who was well acquainted with such Tempests, took not much to heart what she said, but on the contrary, from that time forward haunted Taverns and Gaming more than ever, where day and night he passed away his time, playing some times for 20 or 30 Ducats a throw, insomuch that he used to come home not only monyless but also without Cloak, Gloves or Cravat, to the unspeakable grief of his Wife, and detriment of his whole Family.

Besides all this he had a custome to change his servants, whom now and then he would chide and turn away for their negligence, takeing new in their place, amongst which he met with one *Salcatius*, to whom *Emilia* took a great liking and fancy; and could

could have found in her heart to transgress with him; loving him better than her husband, and ever studious how to please him; which he presently began to smell out and perceive: so that in process of time he sought his Opportunity, and undauntedly made the attempt to bring her to his will, which she (without the least opposition) gave way to, rendring her self prostitute, and freely imparted what she had to him, No sooner was *Diomedes* abroad but they were at their sport, and never out of Town but they were Jamketting together, without having respect either to Money, Vertue, or Reputation.

It chanc'd once that *Diomedes* had occasion to go for *Rotterdam*; to direct some business he had there then depending in dispute; hereupon *Emilia* (glad to see his back-side) made a noble banquet to her men and their Companions: not sparing money or pains to prepare this Collation, which was made up of the best delicacies, as Pheasants, Partridges, Pulletts, Geese, Turkeys, Hares, Rabbits, and what not; each dress'd after sundry manner: during the Banquet was good plenty of Sherry and Rhenish wines, or what sort the guests were pleas'd to call for: after all several dishes of Comfits and Sweetmeats: so that nothing was dream'd on, but *Eat, drink and play* and every

every opinion condemn'd save that of *Epimachus*. When the meal was over, and they had recreated themselves with playing, dancing and kissing, they unanimously resolv'd to go all to bed, and take their ease a little. &c. Hereupon the Blades began to mix themselves with the Gentlewomen all in a body, and blowing out the candles, every one catches by guess whom he could meet with by the hand, went each into a chamber apart, and what they committed there, *Bacchus* had not cheated *Venus* of her due. becomes us rather to leave it to your conjecture, than to pronounce it any plainer.

The two maids of *Emilia* not well satisfied with the issue of this merry night, the more because (perhaps) there were no *Offspring* for them, resolv'd to be revenged some way or other: here-upon they called for Two neighbours, who dealt in Goat-hides, and pretended to court these two maids, who after a small consultation together resolv'd upon a stratagem, which was this. They took two large hides of a Goat, in which so slyly as they could, they shrouded themselves, with the horns upon their heads and the tail between their leggs, and the leggs made fast to their arms: that done they took Paper, and made it into long small pipes, which they fill'd with Gunpowder, and bound it fast in many





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many places, and so tyed it round their middle: which done, they made pellets of wet powder, and taking each man a thick rope in his hand, they went forth- with into a chamber, where strowing a few loose grains of Powder on the floor, they set the pellets on fire, and hurl'd them upon the bed, which gave such terrible cracks, that the poor sinners awak'd, and in amazement, with all the hast they could, jump'd out of bed, and with that threw off the Pellets; which falling upon the floor gave fire to the loose powder, and where it mis'd, these Devils *in forma* touch'd with long squibs artificially made of powder, which so soon as it touch'd their bodies, they began to roar out in such hideous and lamentable manner, that the very house rang again, perceiving likewise by the light of the flame, the direfull shapes, really thinking that it had been the devil, and that they already felt the torments of Hell-fire. Immediately one of the Crackers took fire which flew about the Chamber from place to place, among the naked bodies, who knew not whither to run for shelter: at last some of them, finding the door, ran out into the street, not sensible of their being naked; others so surpris'd that they fell down in a swoon, which the perpetrators seeing they had obtained

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ained their end ; went out at a back door and throwing off their infernal garb , took upon them a human shape.

*Emilia* with her Paramour , like another *Venus* with her *Mars* , feared that angry *Vulcan* was come indeed to catch her in her transgression. Her thoughts thus wandring and she almost bereaved of sense , ran with her bon Companions along the street , the most sensible of 'um all scarce knowing whither ; every one naked to the shirt and smock. Here one complains how his thighs smarted with the stripes he got ; there another complains he feels huge blisters begin to rise upon his back and shoulders ; a third kept a clattering with his teeth by reason of his coming out of an imagined Hell , into the extreme cold air , being in the winter season ; a fourth more less tormented in his conscience than of body , fearing a perpetual scandal if they should be taken so , not knowing what excuse to make to palliate the verity of the matter : nor was it any time to stand there , for the day approached ; nor had any of them the courage to return into the house of *Emilia* ; the Gentlemen were married , and they durst not go home in that dress , and the Youngmen either lodgers , or with their parents , so that they could not find it the best advice to go home ; But what

must

must they do ? Every minute adds to time. It will not be long before it will be day, people will presently be going about their respective businesses , and the Cock begins to proclaim the morn to the world. *Emilia* was hereat in such a consternation , that if she had not been hindred by her company , would have thrown her self headlong into the Haven. At last one of them remembered that she had a Niece , or Cousin who liv'd alone with a maid , and that she had good hopes of coming in there, without much noise or discovery : And indeed this liked them all , so that they went all together to the said house , which was little less than half a mile , and so knock'd at the door several times , before any answer was made : at last the maid comes to the door and demanded who was there ; which when she perceived who it was , opened the door ; The Gentlewoman , who was the only one that had acquaintance there , asked her , if her Mistres was within ; She replied , Yes ; desiring farther , that she would please to pay her visit the next day , withall telling her , that her Mistres was not very well disposed , and had been above 3. or 4. hours in bed : but all in vain for being excited with the cruel torments of the cold , and impatience to tarry there any longer , one of them push'd open the

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door

door in order to go in, and seconded by another, was followed by all the rest; the maid knowing then for a certain who it was, and that no better would be, went grumbling in, and told her Mistress that her cousin was there, with some other company, and urg'd mightily to speak with her. The Gentlewoman immediately slips on her night-gown, and bad the maid, to light a candle, and bring it to the door, for they were all this while in the dark: which she did; and was hardly got into the shop but seeing Ten or twelve women, and 3 or 4 men all in their shirts & smocks (as was said) she out of very fear lets the candle drop, and away out of door, half naked; thinking that it had been many, Ghosts so or that there was some Exorcism in the case.

Mrs *Magdalen* (for that was the Gentlewoman's name) hearing this noise was astonished at it; yet although she was indeed by nature a little timorous, she resolves to go down and see what was the matter. And so taking a candle in her hand she makes toward the stairs which led down to the shop, and seeing there a whole Chorus of persons in their surplices, was worse affrighted, than the maid, and immediately fell down in a swoond. The naked company seeing what had happened, made the work as short as they could, went in them.

themselves to light a candle , and came back again to do what they could for the Patient , whom they found in a lamentable Fit, and besides her the Abortive fruits of a miscarriage , wholly dead. Immediately they went about, seeking in every corner and cupboard for Vinegar , by the use of which they brought her to her self again, and made a shift to lay her upon the bed which was yet warm , and cover'd her very well. The Gentlewoman who still in a weak condition , as one that is but newly brought abed , begun to get a little more heart ; and requested of them , that they would be so free as to let her know the ground of the matter, and what was the cause , of this their being in such a posture and condition , which they to satisfy her curiosity begin to relate , in manner as we have already told you , without the least cohibition of any point , either out of fear or shame ; which done they crept to bed again together , taking each of them what sheets , rugs and blankets they could get, to keep 'um warm: though not in manner as before : For the women looking upon this as a divine piece of Justice for their Guilt , resolved not to ingage any more with their Paramours, but made a separation , and so kept themselves at a distance , but could not close their eies together all

the night ; here we shall leave them and return to the rest of their company.

Those that were left behind , as we said before , were by the horrible sight of such monsters fallen aswound , upon the floor in *Diomedes* his house , and by this time ( as awakened from a dream ) were come to themselves , they rising up began to parley among themselves , what this might be ; concluding they were in the suburbs of Hell , and so began to strengthen each other in that conceit , the more easily to be effected in regard of the apparition which was still very fresh in their thoughts. Each one began to confess their bad life , and condole the sad punishment that would follow , and the penalty they must undergo , and yet not sufficient for an expiation for their wickedness. At last one who seemed the greatest sage among them argued on the contrary, and discussed the thing in suspence. For ( said he ) it is evident and agreed by all, that Hell is a place so hot , that none can endure the heat , and here you see we tremble for cold , much less likely is it that we are dead : nor yet is it probable that we are in heaven , for our bodies and souls are united , have a conjunct power and faculty of motion , so that what has happened has been meerly a dream or some *Deceptio visus*. They with this courage , & rising up began to ha



up and down the house for *Emilia*, and the rest of the Company, but could not hear or see either young or old, whereupon they put on their cloaths and went out into the streets to seek them; but not being able to find them, they concluded that it was some special Judgement indeed, that had befallen them; that the rest were hurried out of the World, and they only left for an example to the race of mankind. After a second and a third Consultation they returned to the place from whence they came (to wit) the house of *Diomedes*, big with expectation what the issue of this calamity would be.

The day drew on, when *Diomedes* before the time expected returned home; having casually met with the Gentleman, with whom he had to do, by the way, and so in a trice dispatch'd his affairs; he knocks at the door, and the Company within overjoy'd, thinking it might be some of their Mates, opened the door; but quite Contrary, it prov'd *Diomedes*; who seeing a Stranger, or two come to the door, was greatly surpriz'd not knowing what to say, or think, they were one whit behind him, possessed now with a second horror; He began to ask for his wife, but none had the courage to answer; but ran away like so many mice upon the sight of a Cat. *Diomedes* seeing this,

caught one of the women about the middle, and threatned her so long, till she detected the whole passage, Which he hearing could hardly believe, being very confident in the honesty of his Consort, who feigned the greatest loyalty, that chastity could think on; evermore behaving her self as a modest Matron in his presence.

The cloaths he took, and lock'd them safely up, and the remainder of the company he secured in a room, where he was confident they were fast enough, with all imaginable patience expecting the coming of his wife who was said to be ravished by *Pluto*, which he did not once relent, as *Cynane* of old did at the ravishing of *Proserpina*; Probably fearing with her to be changed into a fountain, where his second self might purify her of her filthy stains.

*Emilia* and her company rising the next morning, wist not how they should deport themselves. The Abortive fruit of Mrs: *Magdalen* they committed secretly to the Earth, least it might be the occasion of a rumour, not thinking that the wind was powerfull enough to drive the Scandal through the World, or that their Neighbourhood by an inquisitive Curiosity should (like *Midas* in days of yore, with his Asses ears) discover the truth, though never so artificially palliated. Whilst they were in a  
great

great quandary ; not able to invent any mean how they might go to the house of *Diomedes*, whencethey came , and where their cloaths were ; at last they resolved to stay there till it was night again, and so with Blankets, Rugs and Coverlets to go thither; which they did, and not without great terrour , fearing again to meet with some horrible infernal *Demon*, as indeed they met with that which was as good, namely, *Diomedes* with a pair of eies as fierce as those of a lion, glowing with very fury in instead of an amorous complexion. *Emilia* thus meeting with another surprizal, had not a word to say : for where she was not awar of what would befall her , she had not the occasion to premeditate an Apology, but instead of welkoming him home from his 4 days Journey , she attempted to run out again ; but he seeing that, shut the door , so that no way was left for her to escape the direful effects of his fury : and partly out of shame she could no longer endure his presence , but made toward the parlour where the rest were , he willingly let her in and lockt the door , leaving them to their secret Consults. *Diomedes* in the mean while repairs to the husbands of the Women he had in his Parlour, and told'um respectively ; he had a bargain of fair Beasts to sell, which were ready for slaughter, and stall-fed ; adding that as he had got a good

bargain by them, that he was willing to oblige a friend in a penny-worth again, presenting them for Twenty Florens a head, and pick and Chuse, onely one he had a mind to himself, assuring them that the remainder, should be better than so many of the best kine in *Amsterdam*. The Gentlemen were unanimously resolved to see the beasts, he presented to sale, willing to disburthen him of such a bargain, went along with him home to see them. When the Chapman was about to open the door, he gave each man a truncheon, and told them they were something unruly, and that such an implement might stand'um in some stead, and shows them a whole set of Canonics in their Stoles. See Here, Gentlemen (quoth he *These are the Beasts I told you of, and although they have no HORNS, yet are so practical that they can make invisible ones.* The Merchants who litle expected such a stage should be exhibited at the drawing of a scene, were horribly perplex'd twixt Stupor and rage, some not knowing their wives, being not attired in their usual dress, and wonderfully disfigured, with weeping, want of sleep, and so many terrible rescontres they had met with. While they were abash'd at the suddenness of the spectacle, *Diomedes* broke the silence, told the whole passage through, from the beginning to the end, and

and brought them out of the doubt they were in; so that it was not possible for the poor captives to deny any thing, the case and matter being so probable and palpably evident. One or two of them knowing (perhaps) the mild disposition of their husbands fell down upon their bare knees, earnestly and humbly begging that they would vouchsafe in clemency to pardon this great and hainous misdemeanour, but all to no purpose, for their fury was not so easily appeased. Each man in a great fume began to make use of his cudgel, and laid about till they were weary, their Wives stil crying out Forgiveness! Forgiveness! Others not satisfied with that way, went to the Schout (or Minister of Justice) who alike committed them all to Prison; which was more acceptable to them, than to ly at the mercy of their merciless husbands. The Officer thus taking care for the Offending parties, the men went home with great contrition for what had past, and never enjoyed their usual contentment till they had got themselves divorced from their wives, which after some solicitations they procured. *Diomedes* being sensible that if he parted with his wife, he must according to law, part with his whole Estate and Goods, chused rather to accept of the promise of reformation she tendered him, and her ingagement, to

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bequeath all she had in the World to him,  
at her death.

*Diomedes* thus quit of his servants shortly supply'd himself with others, whom he instructed in his Mystery, but principally to make Beverage, which he made to pass for Wine: and so docible they were, that they quickly had the knack of it, so that they begun to have as good a trade on't as he himself; using the same way of dealing which he did, when he liv'd with his Father in Law, to sell it out by pottles and pints. Of which they made no smal profit, ever supplying the defects with *aqua celestis*.

Every day Trading began to decay, and Gaming to Flourish; so that in short time after he found himself uncapable to continue the Trade any longer, or to satisfie all his Creditors, who daily pester'd him. Willing enough he was to pay, but often times he was out of Cash, and could not endure to be dun'd; which his wife observing how hard they were put to it, began to grow very pensive and melancholic, perceiving that she had seen her best days already, and that there was no more hopes of ever coming to her pristine state. The Proverb is true, *Poverty puts a man to his shifts*; in him it is remarkably verified, for he began to make use of his wits to study how he might redress his decaying condition,  
by

*of the Decay'd Merchant.*

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by some means or other. His Cellars were as empty of Wine, as his Coffers were of Money, and he thought it was high time for him to seek remedy for his Credit which lay in it's last pangs, at last he found out a project he thought might cast the ballance. On a morning betimes he went to a Ship-carpenter, with whom he had some small acquaintance, and desired to view 3 new Ships he had built for sale. The Carpenter glad he had got a customer for his Ships, went with him, and show'd him them all over, and after a few words struck a bargain with him for all three, for 70 thousand Guilders; and accordingly Writings were drawn, specifying the sum and manner of payment, which was to be upon 3 May days: The Builder who did not question his sufficiency, let him have the ships without the least scruple which he cheerfully took into possession.

Having got these three ships into Possession, he, by the help of some Brokers sold two of them, and the third sold out to Partners reserving an eighth part to himself, so that he was speedily supplied with money, and in a capacity to bring up his *Quota*, in order to the fitting out that whereof he was in part Owner, as in the Spring following he undertook a Voyage to Spain.

The next thing he took care for, was how he might imploy this money to the best

advantage ; To buy wines and supply his decaying stock, he thought was not the best course ; since he had got such a bad fame of compounding it with Water, a Temperament the buyers thought, was fittest for themselves to do at their own discretion, when occasion serv'd ; insomuch that he was glad to sell off the most part of his Wines, for a very mean price, to those who made Vinegar of it. Amongst 12 Hogsheads of French wine, he had one of passing good Rhenish : these being kept till the last, it just happened that a Vintner living at *Leyden* came to buy some wines, and casually lighting upon him was content to tast of his Rhenish : he brought him into his Cellar which was very dark, and gave him a tast of that one Hogshead of Rhenish, pressing him to drink it off, after he had sipped a litle ; which done he drew another from the same pretending to have drawn it from the next Hogshead, and so a third glass ; the Vintner (who had been all the day at this work) had a conceit that their might be some distinction in the genuin property of the wine, yet concluded them to be all equally good. *Diomedes*, seeing the Vintner between Hawk and Buzzard, press'd him to drink off his glass, which done, cries, Good Sir, let me give you of another, the Vintner, seeing a certain kind of Generosity



fire in his Chapman, more than a Willing-  
ness to put off his wines, rescountred his  
courtesy with a declining of his kind offer,  
said, No, no, Sir, I am well satisfied,  
the wine is of a good body, and likes me  
well, & your person more, But now as  
to the price — *Diomedes* here interrupting  
him, to push home the matter, began to com-  
mend the wine, protesting he did not in-  
tend it should be sold to any that sold it  
again, when he bought it at *Cologne*, &c.  
But willing to do him a kindness, he was  
content to let him have it, hoping after-  
ward to have the Honour and Fortune to  
receive some of his Money, for this or the  
like merchandize, This done, the Vint-  
ner makes agreement with him, sends his  
wine home by the Market boat, and (ac-  
cording to their agreement) paid him a third  
of the money in hand, and the residue he  
promised to pay at the expiration of 3 mo-  
neths: which made *Diomedes* smile in his  
sleeve, to think how he had gull'd the credu-  
lous Vintner.

Not long after the Vintner, having  
dispatched his affairs abroad, returns  
home, and meeting by the way, near  
the Town, some of his customers, per-  
swades, them to go home with him and  
tast some of his wines he had bought; they  
were content; and the Vintner himself

tasting first, met with four French wine more like Verjuice than wine, knew not what to think; recollecting his memory, would need perswade himself he dream'd, supposing of a certain it could not be the Wine he tasted and bought at *Amsterdam*; but afterwards coming to taste the rest, and finding one onely good, began to smell the cheat, ran in all hast to *Amsterdam*, almost blind with Passion, and finding out the house of *Diomedes*, knocks at the door two or three times before the maid could come at it. *Diomedes* hearing so many thunder-claps one after another, feared at lest a shower would follow, he ordered the maid with a wink (as he was wont to do) to deny his being within, and so she did; but the Vintner having a strong opinion it was a litle too early for him to be abroad, or thinking perhaps he was not willing to be disturb'd of his sleep, said to the maid, Præthee sweet-heart, tell him I must needs speak with him, my name is *Kroonbergen* (who was a great familiar of *Diomedes*) the silly wench, not knowing how to manage the business well, turn'd about and said, I shall Sir, coming again, he asked the maid, What her master said, Really sir, (quoth she) he says Hee's not within; which was enough to suspect his being within, and

and after a litle urging to no purpose at all, he found that *Diomedes* had seen a *Wolf* through the *Chinks*; and was for that time *not comeatable*, he posts away to some other places in the City, where he had business, which being dispatched, he comes timely to the Exchange, where with great patience he expected the coming of his Chapman, About 12. a clock (when the Gates are shut, and none suffered to enter till after one, without 6. d. to the poor) he spied *Diomedes*, thronging in, amongst a great eroud of Merchants, made forward to meet him, and lest he should loose him catches him fast by the midle & throngs up with him. *Diomedes* finding himself so kindly embraced, was in a deep study, how to rid him of his companion, and come off with credit: at last finding the man would not let him go, began to cry out, A thief, A thief, a Pick-pocket; the man still holding by the coat, which *Diomedes* had cunningly twisted, and so fastned his hand that if he would, he could not have got clear; At this noise the Rable, together with all the Boys, began to flock about the Vintner, who to his misery was thus entangled, some pelting him with rotten Oranges, others calling him Rogue, Rascal, Pickpocket, and made such a noise that it was impossible for

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for the Captive to be heard in his own defence, seemingly taken *in ipso facto*. *Diomedes* seeing himself now well, turn'd him over to the *Mobile*; some kicking him, others pelting him till he stagger'd again, continually crying, Thief, Thief: which at last the Schout (or Constable) having notice on, was put in mind of his Duty, together with his Assistants rushed in, and freed the poor carter from the rude rout, who thought then he had been at liberty again, but much mistaken, for the Schout commanded one of his Waiters, to ty him with the chain, which he did, and marched very orderly with him to prison, with a retinue of boys; nor would any Apology or vindication he could make for his innocency help or perswade the Schout, to consider the matter a litle, but was committed to the dungeon, where he was almost out of his senses with Passion, swearing to be revenged on the knave *Diomedes*.

*Diomedes* thus rid of his Customer was heartily glad, beleeving this good fortune to proceed from the influence of his kind Stars, and that the Heavens had blessed him above all others, with their continual Providence and Protection, so that he might rest secure under their Patronage, under which he was never likely to miscarry;  
through

through which perswasion he resolved to live in stately wise , to yield the reins to his affections , and never deny himself any thing that might add to his pleasure , and the free enjoyment of a voluptuous & libidinous life, and returning home , began to consider what course or practise he might next take in hand that might be proficient to his determined end.

Shortly after it happened , that a certain Merchant came to give *Diomedes* a Dun , for the payment of some money ; which had been long due upon the delivery of some wines , having often urged the payment , but was still put off , began now to show great impatience vowing if he would not immediately tender the money he would send him a summons. *Diomedes* finding he could no longer deferr the payment of this money , and weighing the matter with himself , did foresee that if this one Creditor should be as good as his word , it would be the laying of a bridge for the rest to pass over ; which might be the ready path to bring him to ruin: *Diomedes* pray'd him to come the next day at night , avouching his sincere intentions to pay him the whole sum. The Merchant , willing to make tryal once more of the Fidelity of his promises , goes home and returns at the time appointed.

*Dio-*

*Diomedes*, who was evermore greedy of revenge, had in the mean while provided two *Russians*, to whom he had given instructions, to dance attendance in a dark wast place near his house, till a certain Merchant (whom he described to them) should pass by, whom they might assail and take the moneys he was to have received. The *Russians* very glad of so fair an opportunity promised not only to, keep counsel, but forthwith to put themselves in good order, and the project in Practice, and accordingly they did at the hour appointed. The merchant, not willing to give *Diomedes*, the least opportunity to excuse himself for any negligence on his part, comes at the time prefixed, receives the Money and taking his leave of *Diomedes* with a light heart and a heavy purse (the sum being about 2300. gilders) he departs homeward, but being past about ten houses from that of *Diomedes*, he was assaulted by two persons, who violently grasping him by the collar, and clapping each man a naked Poniard to his breast, bad him deliver, swearing by Heaven, that if he made the least resistance, or offered to cry out, they'd push home. The Merchant thus surprized not daring so much as open his mouth to dispute the matter with them, was fain to deliver,

and

and glad he had redeem'd his life, that lay at stake, at so easie a rate. These villains having thus got their spoil, betray'd their trust in what they had under a solemn Oath promised to *Diomedes*, thinking it better to depart in peace, with the prey they had then in possession, than to present it to *Diomedes*, and stand to his Generosity for a reward of such a peirrillous enterprise, so that notwithstanding his expectation of them (who value no more the Violation of an oath than the perpetration of such a villany) he was disapointed. The next day came the merchant to *Diomedes*, not onely with a design to tell him the misfortune that befell him (his jealousy prompting him to fix a suspicion on *Diomedes* as the original cause thereof) but to make what observation he could in the face of *Diomedes*, when he related what had passed; but *Diomedes* who well provided with a premeditated manner of behaviour, and thorow pac'd in such things, acted *Innocent* better than *Innocent* himself could have done, and faigning himself greatly surprized and grieved to hear the thing rehearsed, sometimes pitying the Patient of so great a loss, other times railing against the Villains with many Exclamations. Miserable men (quoth he to the Merchant) that for the enjoyment  
of

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of so mean a portion of earthy Mammon, will hazard the ruin of Body and Soul ! who for the poor benefits of the pelf of this world will endanger, themselves to dwell in everlasting Burnings ! Sad infidels ! who without the least respect to Heaven, and the Future state of the Pious, will rather for a trifle accompany Devils in perpetual Darkness and Torments ; But alas what shall we say ! men will take no warning at the punishment they dayly see with their outward and carnal eies, how should they then take example at what is threatened, which they because of unbelief and hardness of heart can not spiritually behold ? With these and the like Palliations, and Hypocritical ejaculations, he so blinded the Merchant, that he could not in the least imagine him either conscious or factious in the Robbery : But on the contrary with great satisfaction, as to the Innocency of *Diomedes*, he returned home to acquaint himself in the best wise he could with Patience.

*Emilia* sometimes perceiving the false-dealing of her Husband, was greatly dejected and sorrowful, weighing the bad issue which usually follows, and attends such dishonest Practises, would often pre-



ferr and instance several examples hereof  
 to him , comparing his course of life , to  
 divers of late times , that meritoriously  
 received a condign punishment for their  
 unjust actions : Yet all this was but char-  
 ming of the Adder ! *Diomedes* knew his  
 wife was but a Woman , a creature as  
 timorous as he himself was temerous :  
 he resolves still to persist in filthy lucre,  
 and to accumulate moneys got *per fas* ,  
*aut nefas* , by hook or crook , all equally  
 just to him ; ever delighting himself with  
 an *Epicurean* life , and endeavouring  
 to fulfill his sensual appetite , as to what  
 might serve to recreation in that kind.  
 The more *Emilia* seem'd to reprove and  
 admonish him , the worse he was , and  
 frequented Taverns , Houses of Game  
 and other consumptive places more than  
 ever , usually twitting her in the teeth  
 of her former misbehaviour , as a re-  
 ward for her kind exhortations ; inso-  
 much that she seeing no hopes of ever  
 redressing his life , or her estate , she  
 took it so to heart that the very same  
 maladie , which seiz'd and wasted the  
 good Gentleman , her Father , took  
 hold of her , as a just Judgment for her , that  
 she who had ( by her disobedience to him )  
 brought him to such an end , should be  
 afflicted and scourged with the like cha-  
 stise-

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-stisement. The Marriage, which she in  
the time of her Fathers great affliction,  
would force him to the consent of, and  
that too with the greatest Force he had upon  
earth; now gnawed more upon her con-  
science, that ever it grieved the mind of  
her deceased Parent. During the time of  
her consumption *Diomedes* the better to  
delight himself with others, severed him-  
self wholly from her, both at Bed and  
Boar. Which unkind doings being now  
and then reprehended for, as a great note  
of his inhumanity, his reply would be  
That it was a Venereal distemper she was  
quell'd with, as a Judgment upon her for  
her loose life; endeavouring to implant  
in them some apprehensions of Verity, by  
the rehearsal of that well known misbeha-  
viour before related, thinking with such  
a palpable instance to add sufficiently to  
their faith, who notwithstanding all that,  
did not prove so credulous, very sensible  
of his bad and churlish demeanour towards  
her. This continually increasing the grief  
of *Emilia* so often as she heard it, at last  
brought her to her fatal *Catastroph*; her  
lingring sickness finally arrived with her at  
the Banks of death, which happy arrival  
was no small cause of Joy to *Lebechea*, her  
unworthy husband. She was no sooner  
buried, but he caused all her cloaths to

be carried out and sold, thereby thinking to obliterate the very memory of her, lest at any time it should prove an obstruction to his mirth. He as was before mentioned, without any Coheir according to the vertue of an irrevocable Instrument of Conveyance, kept all her Estate in his hands, which rendred him the more capable to enter upon a second match.

Upon a time *Diomedes* resolving to make a Journey from *Amsterdam* to the *Hague*, to see if he could meet with any lucky bargain, for which end he changed about 5000. gilders into Gold, for levity sake: pursuant to his intended Journey, goes into the boat; where he was no sooner sitten down, but he espied a Merchant comming in all hast towards the boat, with two *Thief-catchers* (so called from their Office) and being conscious of a prank he himself had plaid that Merchant, (which hereafter shall be mentioned) suspected that he was the man they aim'd at, was at first at a stand how to avoid the danger that he was in, but looking about he sees a great many of the Rable, made use of the present means he had, cried out, See Gentlemen, there comes a great Varlet, an Informer, a fellow that has nothing in the world to live on but what he gets from the Commissioners of the Excise by trepanning of honest men; A rascal that would

would swear his soul to the Devil for a dollar, 'tis a wonder such vagabonds are not torn in pieces by well meaning persons, or how dare such notorious villains appear in the presence of so many honest Gentlemen, as are here, about their respective businesses, to and again? These words which you may rest assured he did not smother, or whisper, were immediately taken notice of by the Rabble, (who are as implicitly incens'd at the very name of an Informer, as the Jews are at the commemoration of *Haman*) kept an eye on him and seeing him make toward *Diomedes*, interposed themselves and would not suffer him, to lay hands on him; he who knew he had Justice on his side began to push forward, but finding himself opposed, began to lay about, which the Rable feeling the smart of, held it for a lawfull occasion to fall upon him, and they unanimously did, and pummelled him at such a rate that he thought he should there have expired his last, on tearing his Plush cloak, another fastning by his *Point di Veneza* band, a third man sure his Perrywig and Beaver: nor were they satisfied with this, for after they had annointed him with kennel muck, they took him by head and heels, and threw him into the water, leaving him there to shift for himself.

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self, and crawl out as he could, every one that were factious and had a hand in the matter stealing away one by one, till none was left, but only a few spectators which were left to comfort him with many bitter revilings and curses, he all this while not sensible of the reason of this inhumane usage; nor had the Thief-catchers been behind hand with him who suspecting he had a wrong sown by the rail, thought it not safe to stay there much longer, ran away and saved their Lamb-pie till another time. *Diomedes* who himself had been a Spectator of this scene in part, speeded him on his Journey, whom we will post after, and leave the Merchant in the Condition he's in.

*Diomedes* that night arrived in the Hague, and was lodged in a Gentlemans house, whom for this time we will name *Leopoldus*; he being a person on whom Fortune ever smiled, and one who had married and met with a good match, which rendred him as to his private contentment, more happy than the greatest part of men. His principal Affairs were the Concerns of the East-India Company, and Actions; of which *Diomedes* was sensible, and consequently hatched a notable Project, to his own advantage, which was thus: *Diomedes* coming to this Gentleman, accosted him

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“on this wise Sir, I have been informed  
 “that some few days since you had the mis-  
 “fortune to lose a bag of Gold, as I  
 “think it a duty incumbent upon me, so  
 “I assume the boldness and freedom to let  
 “you know, it was my hap to meet with it,  
 “which without either expectation of a re-  
 “ward, or diminishing of the smallest piece  
 “of coin, I humbly tender it to You, to  
 “whom it indisputably belongs. *Leopoldus*  
 observing a true example of an upright  
 heart, could not but return him a very cour-  
 teous reply, said, Sir, I thank you for your  
 kindness, but certainly I have not lost one  
 farthing I know of. *Diomedes* who knew the  
 Gentlemans integrity, that he was not so  
 barkbound for money as to lay claim to any  
 thing which was not his own by a just Ti-  
 tle, began to show himself highly concern’d;  
 wishing the Party to whom it belong’d might  
 have it restored him again, although it were  
 Fifty Crowns loss to him himself, declaring  
 how loath he was to detain any mans right  
 from him, or to keep what was not truly his  
 own. This ended he brought in new dis-  
 course, amongst which he began to relate  
 how that the day before, he had bought  
 some Leases, to about the value of 30000 gil-  
 ders, as willing to dispose of his money that  
 way, not knowing how to imploy it other-  
 wise; with one showing some sealed Instru-  
 ments

ments of writing which seem'd to be Leases, as also an Acquittance, whereby was confessed the receipt of 30000 gl. by the supposed Transporter, or Seller, desiring *Leopoldus* he would vouchsafe to have the goodness to keep them till he came that way again, for that he judg'd it not safe for him to send them home to the Maid, with whom alone he kept house: nor yet to take them with him to *Brussel*, whither he was intended; considering the many perills and danger of Robberies he was liable to, on such a Journey; adding that he was in some hast, and could not have the leisure to go & visit a very intimate friend he had in the *Hague*, on whom he might otherwise impose that trouble; and that an Uncle of his lay on his death bed at *Brussels*, who intended to bequeath the most part of his Estate to him, if he arriv'd there before his Decease. *Leopoldus* although credulous enough to beleieve what he said for a certain truth, yet he was very unwilling to admit of things of that nature into his custody, declined the matter with great earnestness, excusing his refusing to comply with such things, &c. till *Diomedes* promised to seal them up all together in a Box. The Gentleman upon that offer'd to give him a Writing or Obligation to redeliver such a Box. *Diomedes* thanked him, but would not accept of an Obligation, saying it was not necessary to bring that trou-

ble upon him reposing great confidence and fidelity in Monsr: *Leopoldus*, not fearing to receive any disadvantage in the least by him, but deeming them as safe, as if they were in his own Chest under a hundred locks. The morning being come, and *Diomedes* making himself ready, sore against his will took his leave of Seigneur *Leopoldo*, feigning great hast, departs: but instead of going to *Brussels*, he went directly for *Rotterdam*, when there was a very pleasant Mansion house to be sold, situate near *Haarlem*, in which *Diomedes* had a great liking, and determines to purchase it, without counting the cost, or weighing the value of the money that so unnecessary a thing as a Countrey Summer-dwelling might come to stand him in.

Arriving at *Rotterdam* he forthwith applies himself to the Sale, where hearing the Conditions read; he understood that it was to be paid at 3 several payments, each payment at the expiration of six months, one after another, which pleased him well, and the better to bring his purpose to effect, he took with him 2 or 3 Gentlemen, into whose acquaintance he had subtilly insinuated himself, under the notion of one of the most eminent Merchants in *Amsterdam*, which they also beleaved by some



circumstantial words he negligently seem'd to let fall : these Gentlemen he intreated to assist him herein , being (as he made them believe ) come thither to no other purpose than to purchase that Countrey-house , praying further the kindness of them that if they refused to pass it over to him without ready money , in default of knowledge , they would be so kind , as to be his Security , which they were free to do.

When the Sale began , Diomedes watch'd his bacon , and bad at a round rate , being all the while the leading man ; at last got the bargain , and a Good Luck to boot ; promising to perform the first payment within to days , and giving good & sufficient Security for the rest , they were content. Which ended , Diomedes departed for Middelburg , to compleat the time he promised to return in from Brussels.

It happened that he met with a Jokky by the way , at an Jun , who had a neat Coach-horses to sell , which liked Diomedes extremely well , so that he resolv'd to buy them , and asking the price , the Jokkey offer'd them at twelve hundred gilders ; he thinking that too much , bad him 800 , at which the Jokky turned about , and would make him no answer , but Diomedes pursu'd his bargain so , that he got them for 1060 gild. which he paid down in ready money he

set forward toward the *Hague* where he bought a Coach, and hired a Coach and Foot-man, fully purposing thence forward to live like a Person of Quality.

In this state he came to the house of *Leopoldus*, with Coach and Horses, himself and Retinue all in mourning, complements *Leopoldus* in courteous manner, declaring the decease of his Uncle, which Mr. *Leopoldus* hearing, immediately rescontr'd him with a complement of Condolency. After their complements were ended and *Diomedes* introduced into the Parlour, he begun to relate how strangely he happened to hearken out the person, who had lost the money ( mentioned pag. 50, ) and that upon his giving the real tokens of the Sum, and Species; he restored it him again. Yet all this would not bring him home to his purpose, which he shortly after put in practise. He humbly prays the return of his Box of Writings which were brought forth, and he after the passing of many Complements, expressing his gratitude, took his leave, and parted for *Amsterdam*, where he set up his Horse in a Hackney-stable, till he had hired one of his own, where he ordered his Coachman to attend. Now nothing remained save his house, which was not furnished with Moveables suitable to the Grandour, he for the future pur-

purposed to live in. Hereupon he applies himself to a Painter, famous for Work, and Judgement, and one whose name I have seen set to many spurious pieces, that something resemble his way of working, to make them give a greater price: of this Painter he bought 14 choice pieces, bargaining for the whole for 3200 gilders, which he promised to send him, the Painter not in the least mistrusting, or doubting of his honesty was content to part with his pieces upon those terms, without further care.

Having thus cullied the Painter with those Ornaments, wherewith he garnished his house. In the next place he directs his course to a Woolen-Draper where he bought to the value of 800 gilders in Cloth, Bays and other Mourning stuffs, making the people believe he had an Uncle lately dead; at *Brussels*, who had left him a great Estate, which they beleeving gave him credit, greedy of his custome for the future.

And although he had hitherto well effected his purpose, yet he was in some fear that at last all these debts would come home to him, and that some care must be taken to retrieve all again: these considerations were often opposed with an idle conceit he had of his being born a Child of Fortune, and that the Angel of Providence was always at

his elbow, so that he needed not to take care, or further thought, than only to enjoy the blessings, that the mild Heavens were still to pour upon him; The worst was to incur new Debts to pay off the Old, since he was well in Credit, as yet hearing none breath a word of Jealousie to the contrary.

With these hopes he rested content, as do most men of desperate Fortunes as well on the other hand. Shortly after he returns again to the *Hague*, designing to act his part with *Leopoldus*, to whom addressing himself, accosted him on this wise:  
 "Good Sir, be pleased to forgive the freedom I come to request of you, wishing  
 "on the contrary, that it had been an opportunity of mine, wherein I might have been  
 "serviceable to you: But be assured, Sir, if I  
 "may any way retaliate so great a kindness, I  
 "will be at all times prepared to perform  
 "an office so acceptable. My request is  
 "that you would please to sell me about 10  
 "or 12000 gild. in Actions, and I will remit  
 "you the Money so soon as I arrive at home.  
 "The reason why I have it not with me is  
 "because that coming to *Rotterdam*, I met  
 "with a bargain of 300 Tun of Herring,  
 "which I finding to be for my turn,  
 "bought, & paid a third of the money  
 "down the whole amounting to 17000 gl.  
 "odd money, and the rest I am obliged to

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“answer in Actions according to the Tenure of these Writings. With that he began to show *Leopoldus* false schedules and acquittances, he had made for the design; and presented him Obligations under his hand, and if he was not satisfied therewith, the Writings wherewith he was empowered to receive the Herring, without which none could receive them, for that the Merchants had thereby acknowledged themselves obliged to deliver the said Goods, before the receipt could be made void. *Leopoldus* was easily induced to beleve what he said, especially remembering the marks of honesty, and the signal tokens of an upright mind in him, from the honestrender of the moneys he pretended to have found, as also his being enriched upon the decease of his uncle at *Brussels*, which his returning in such a Grandour seem'd to manifest as a certainty: thus blinded, he assented to his request, granting him 12000 Guilders in Actions; which he confirmed by the signing of Obligations, no further security being then demanded, as adjudging him sufficient for the payment of so inconsiderable a sum. *Diomedes* (it is to be observed) signed the Obligation with a counterfeit name writing himself *Desire*. This affair done, he took Coach, and that night left the *Hague*, not without

returning *Leopoldus* a Million of thanks, for so great a favour: making the more haste, lest *Leopoldus* should haply after a more narrow scrutiny change his mind, and consequently revoke what he had done: Now *Diomedes* had so often as he had been with this Gentleman always a Jet-black Perrywig, his Eiebrows and Mustachios artificially coloured, to the end he might not at another time be known.

Shortly after he went for *Rotterdam* where (by the help of a Broker) he converted these Actions into money, and therewith paid his first payment for his Countrey house, and passing a complement on the two Gentlemen who had been his Security for the whole, took his leave of them, and away for *Amsterdam*.

According to our Calculation he had now about 10000 guilders, with which he resolved to fit out some Ships, and try his fortune that way; but contrary to his hopes he was obstructed in this design, for he was upon the undertaking of this purpose surprized with the Thunderbolt of Misfortune; The Merchant which he had caused to be misused, under the notion of an informer found him out, which gave him but small appearance of success, as we shall shortly relate; first, according to our promise (pag. 47.) we shall give you a reason of his being pro-

prosecuted by this person, and why he came with 2 Waiters to take him into Custody.

The Merchant, with whom we have to do, was one who dealt chiefly in Wood, and for his own use had fitted out Ships for Norway, and sometimes bought of others, according as he thought the Merchandise for his turn. *Diomedes*: who knew this very well, had a mind to show him a trick, for his own ends, applies himself to one *Lammer*, who dealing likewise in that way, & had a ship newly come in, loaden with such Wares, *Lammer* perceiving he had a mind to buy some of him, was willing to show him the Lading, *Diomedes* appointed him a time when he should come to him in order to see the Goods, having already understood where the ship lay: but instead of giving attendance for *Lammer* at the hour prefixed, he applies himself to *Vander Burgh* the Merchant before mentioned, telling him he had a ship lately come in from Norway, laden with Wood, which he was desirous to sell, telling him withall that he would afford him a reasonable good penny worth of it. Mr. *Vander Burgh* tickled to see it, thinking it might be an advantageous bargain to him, was in as much hast as *Diomedes*, who the better to effect the matter, had already been aboard to make the Master

believe he had bought the whole Cargo. *Diomedes* borrowed a boat of an acquaintance of his, and rows aboard, warily shuning the Stern, lest his Chapman by that means might come to suspect or desery the Villany. After he had shown him all the Wood, and the other making good inspection into the Quantity and Quality of the same, they entered upon the bargain, which at last was brought to the point. The Chapman not once thinking but that *Diomedes* had both power and property to sell it; though shortly after he found himself in an errour to his sorrow: for when *Diomedes* soon after struck a bargain with *Vander Burgh* for some other Wood, and had received it, deducting the price and payment of the first. *Vander Burgh* then thought that having now already bought the Goods and Ingrossed the Conveyance (which also was but a fraudulent practise of *Diomedes*) that he had already payd for those Goods, which *Diomedes* had after that manner sold him and not delivered, by deducting it in the price of those he himself had sold *Diomedes*, which *Diomedes* had likewise then received: but finding he was circumvented, & that *Diomedes* had no Title to the Goods, applies himself to the Law, which impowred him to arrest him, though (as we have already said) he could not effect the matter,

for



for the trick *Diomedes* had play'd him, in making the Rable beleeve he was an Informer.

*Vander Burgh* was now herein greatly dissatisfied, and had made a vow with himself to be revenged on *Diomedes*, and in order to that applies himself to the City Bailiff or, Chief Minister of Justice, to whom he related the Case at large, and understanding that he had some knowledge of the matter, remains under hopes to see him punished according to his merits, pursuant to which he summons him before the Judge, where *Diomedes* in obedience to the Citation makes his appearance, was convicted of the crime, and found he had cheated no body worse than himself: for Sentence being given against him, he was ordered to redeliver the Wood and fined 2000 gl. beside, which was within 3 daies to be paid to the Officer of Justice, or in default of that, to suffer Imprisonment, and a severer Sentence to be the second time pronounced against him, in which *Diomedes* was fain to rest contented for the time being.

About four days after he takes a resolution to go to the *Hague*, and in order thereto betakes himself to the Boat, without either delivering of the Wood, or paying the fine, taking with him all he could on a sudden convert into Gold, which was about two thousand Crowns, but he was no

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ner come to the Boat but was aware of his friend *Van der Burgh* whom he had Stigmatized for an Informer, as was said before, with two Waiters of Justice after him: which leaving we will return to the pursuit of the matter, and manifest the Truth of the old Adage, or rather Proverb: *Fraus fraude fraudulentos afficit.*

Being now returned home, after he had gull'd Mr. *Leopoldus* in the *Hague*, added to his Grandeur, by Coach, Horses; Servants and Moveables, with intent for the future to live in stately wise; *Van der Burgh* comes to have notice of his return, which he had long wish'd for, went to him and demanded either his Wares, or full payment: *Diomedes* finding himself obstructed in the carrying on of his Purpose, thought it his best way to redeliver the Wood, and intending to deal no more in Wines, he sold off what remain'd of his stock, which brought up a sum of 3000. gilders, two thousand whereof the Minister of Justice laid claim to, as accrewing him according to the sentence which was issued against him, and was compelled to pay the Charges and Fees; insomuch that his whole Estate was not now above 7000 gilders, which he conceiving a few pompous and Jovial days would consume, began anew to study how he might, furnish his

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offers again.

His Custome was to frequent Coffee-houses, and places of like resort, where the more sober sort of People doe usually meet. Here he found now and then an opportunity to meet with a Cully, whose humour he could suit, and inveigle with a seeming Probity. Understanding that one *Jerome* a Merchant, had a great quantity of Grain, which he was willing to sell, he applies himself to him, and insinuating himself into his acquaintance, grew so familiar with him that he invited him to Supper, preparing all things beforehand, in order to the better effecting of the Stratagem.

When *Jerome* according to his promise was come and set at Table, *Diomedes* caused one of his trusty Brethren to withdraw himself into another room, & tell a heap of money, over and over, all the while the Merchant was there; which was accordingly done. The Merchant who all this while heard a great rattling of money, and that incessantly a telling, assumed the freedom to ask *Diomedes* if it was not in the next house. *Diomedes* replies, No, Sir, it is my Steward, who has received about Eighty Thousand Guilders this morning, for some Commodities I sold, with other  
mo-

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money I have ordered him to tell out, intending rather than let it ly, to imploy it in some Merchandize or other: *Jerome*, who thinking he had now a fair opportunity offered him to make his market, asked him if he would buy a bargain of Grain telling him he had about 760 Tun of Rie, and some Wheat to dispose of, I am well satisfied, replied *Diomedes*, but I must first inquire of my Cashkeeper what Cash there will be over, having obliged myself already to pay 30000 guilders in ready money for a bargain I met with this afternoon, but (added he) if you are content I'll pay you a Fourth ready money, and the rest at 3 moneths. *Jerome* was well satisfied, nor questioning the sufficiency of his new Customer: and so proceeding to the Bargain they agreed; the whole purchase amounting to 69160 guilders, the sale being drawn *Diomedes* signes it, having before hand provided Ink for the purpose, which was made of Salt-petre and other corrosive Ingredients, with this he subscribed his name, and delivered it to *Jerome* upon the receipt of the Grain.

So soon as he had got the Grain into his possession he went and sold a certain quantity, amounting to the sum of 13000 guilders, and not long after met with a Chapman which bought of him about the value of

*of the Decay'd Merchant.* 63

9000 Gild. and within a week after, another that took about 18080 Gild. off his hand, so that his estate was suddenly advanced from 7000 to 44000 Gild.

Now that he might put off the remainder of his Grain, which he thought would be so damnified with keeping that it might return to his loss, he procured a person or two of his own rank to cast a report upon the Exchange, as if the Most Christian King were a levying of a great Army, and that he intended to Attack the *Low-Countries*; and to add a better colour and apparency of Truth to this rumour; he hired an obscure fellow, whom he ordered to give himself out for not but newly come from the French Court: he had also the Day before dispersed a letter or two, dated the latest post day from *Saint Germain*; which proved so effectual that the face of affairs was quite transformed, the Merchants and Inhabitants generally in great fear and consternation, having always had apprehensions of a War. This sudden news so raised the Price of Corn that *Diomedes* wished he had reserved what he had already sold.

Amongst a Considerable number of Trading men that were misled upon this report, was one, whose too kind nature has seal'd, my mouth, and put a stop to my pen, for  
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sundry obligations, to record his name:  
yet the Letter, which Lebechea had caused  
to be shown him, we shall here insert, as  
it is thus paraphas'd from the French:

Sir,

Being incited by the perfect Friendship and  
the sundry Favours; you have ever manifested to-  
wards me, and that without the least deserts on  
my behalf, I held it a duty incumbent on me to  
give you advice, of the sudden design of his most  
Christian Majesty of France, which is with  
the return of the Spring to make a sudden Irup-  
tion upon the United Provinces; His Resolu-  
tion being neither to spare the Land nor its Pro-  
ducts, or what else may any way conduce to the  
enabling of the Inhabitants in opposition of  
his Arms: To which end he has levyed a great  
Army, and as the Infancy of Affairs afford  
advice, will be drawn into several Battalions,  
for the better and more speedy expedition of the  
Enterprize. Besides this it is a certain truth that a  
huge Fleet will be put in equippage, to cruise  
upon the Hollanders, in the North and Medi-  
terranean Seas: and necessarily I must confess,  
that so long as I have been honoured with the  
Dignity of a Counsellor of his Majesty, have  
never seen any thing so desired or pressed for-  
ward, as this very Intent to subdue the Spanish  
and

*of the Decay'd Merchant.* 67

and United Provinces : a thing , Sir , I only impart to you for your own good , and the good of those that have any Alliance or Interest with you , hazarding thereupon the heavy consequences which might befall me for violating the trust reposed in me from so great a Monarch. Not else but that I am ,

Saint Germain &c.

Worthy Sir ,

Your Most obedient and most  
faithfull Servt.

Jean le Grand.

This Gentleman, who, as I told you, was injur'd by the Contents of this letter, thinking to take care betime, for the furnishing of his Garner with corn, met accidentally with *Diomedes* upon the Exchange; and after a few circumstantial reasonings tending to the cheapening of the Commodity, he struck a bargain with him for all the remainder of his Grain, which was agreed upon for the sum of 38000 *Carols* Gilders, ready money: for *Diomedes* was ever fearfull lest his Creditors should fall suddenly upon him, and render him incapable of receiving any money that was due to him from others. The next day he  
that

delivered the Corn and received the money, with which he made mirth and good cheer: but it was not long before *Jerom* his Chapman came to spoil his sport; for looking by chance upon the Writing he found nothing but paper, and instead of letters, holes, as if it had been eaten with moths; was in a great amaze, and weighing the matter well with himself could not but conclude it as a cheat, whereat enraged he ran to *Diomedes* his house, and letting his Passion predominate over his Reason, without any further inquiry, charges the matter home upon him, and roundly began to demand his money, which *Diomedes* hearing swore he had paid him all he ought him: *Jerom* then twice as passionate as before could hardly forbear beating him, giving him whole volleys of Rogues and Cheats, *Diomedes* as well provided as he paid him in the same Mint, returning him as many Broadfides of Knaves and Rascals, as the other did him of Rogues and Cheats, telling him he was a fraudulent fellow for demanding his money twice. To be brief this Logic grew so bitter, that *Diomedes* bad him go out of his house, if he lov'd himself or else to take what would follow, which *Jerom* observing and finding no good to be done this way, he goes away, threatening to prosecute him. This startled *Diomedes*.



not a little, who after he had screw'd his brain a while, thought he must drive out one nail with another: He took Courage, & to reap the benefit of a harvest of his own making, finding Obligations to be considerably fallen, repairs to a Broker, of whom he informed himself of a Person that had some to dispose of, and there bought for the value of 20000 gilders, which he paid in ready money, and told the Gentleman he had a mind to 60 or 70 Thousand Gilders more, whereupon the Gentleman (whose name was *Mordecai*, a Jew) promised him to come to him, with some others, as accordingly one evening appointed by *Diomedes* he did, to transform Money into paper.

In the *interim* *Diomedes* had prepared all things in a readiness, and the same evening invited 7 or 8 Persons to Supper, who were there sooner than the Jew: last of all comes the Jew. *Diomedes* made his excuse to his Guests, saying he had a Gentleman, whom he did not expect that night, that had waited some time in the Parlour for him, praying them not to look upon his being so called aside, as any rudeness; the business being of that moment, that for that time he could not wave it, he having bought some Thousands in Obligations of him, and that he must come to a Reckoning, and clear Accounts.

compts with him. The Gentlemen, his Guests, expressed their great Satisfaction, that he rather chused to dispatch an affair of that weight and urgency, than to oblige them in what might tend to his inconvenience, &c. *Diomedes* went forth to receive the Honour of his coming, praying him to be covered, and sit down; which, after a few Contre-Compliments returned, he did. After they had made a discourse of some prævius matters, the Jew makes Ingress to the main concern, about which he came, showing *Diomedes* the Value of 18 Thousand Guilders in Leases; but before *Diomedes* would buy, pray'd the Jew he would be so kind as to help him to make inspection of what money he had void, and whether the Sum would amount to that or no; which the Jew readily promised to do, understanding *Diomedes* to protest he would buy no more than his Cash would answer. Having now spent an hour in telling, they found that there was no more than 62200 gl. which consisted of different Coins, and most Gold; which when they had told, *Diomedes* put it up into bags, praying the Jew that he would let him have a Lease of 22000 Gild. or rather one of less, that it might not exceed his present Capacity. The Jew replied, that it was no matter, he would trust him

for

of the Decay'd Merchant. 71

for the 6000 gl. and could well acquiesce in him for such a Sum. *Diomedes* rather willing to play at great games than small; or to get all, than so poor a purchase, insisted as before; so that the Jew told him he had one at home of 20000 gl. and offering that *Diomedes* agreed with him for 99 guilders per Cent. upon which the Jew made as if he would go forth, but *Diomedes* pray'd him that he would be so kind as to help him to carry the baggs into another Room, where he used to keep his Cash, not willing to let it ly open to the view of such as might pass through the ParLOUR, with one pointing towards his Guests, which sat in another Chamber so as he could see them, the door standing open, and they that were within could also see *Diomedes* and the Jew, and likewise hear any thing they said, as they did, unless it were something *Diomedes* spoke not so loud, the better to palliate the Cheat. The Jew obey'd his desire took the money in his Arms, and carried it into another Room, *Diomedes* discoursing him all the while with material words, so that his Guests could not but take notice of all that was said and done. This done *Diomedes* lockt the door of the Room, where the money was brought; the Jew departs, *Diomedes* thanks him for his trouble

&c.

&c. The Jew in a moment returns, delivers *Diomedes* the *Leases* with a promise that he would satisfy him the next day as to the Validity of the same, that they were free of any Charge and not *Fidei Commissa*, with which he seem'd content; The writings drawn by a Scrivener whom he had under the number of his Guests, 2 more subscribed as Witnesses; *Mordechai* signs to the Writing wherein was confessed that he had sold and transported 60000 gilders in *Leases* at 99 gl. per Cent. and payd in full for the same, expecting with one to have his money pay'd him, though much mistaken, for *Diomedes* having the Writings effectual enough to confirm the Payment and Receipt, had lockt up the money. The Jew, after he had been a while held up with talk, prayed *Diomedes* to pay the Money. What d'ye mean, Sir, (replied *Diomedes*) have I not pay'd you to your mind? I suppose these Gentlemen are sensible that I have payd you, and that you have taken the Money home with you. The Jew, who at this answer was not a little dismay'd, began first in a moderate way to pray him not to jest, because his time was short, that he had appointed another meeting that night &c. *Diomedes* feigning himself greatly concern'd at the Jew's importunity pray'd him to forbear playing the fool, saying he was ashamed to be so rude to





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his Guests, that he had already play'd too much upon their patience; These and the like reasons move the Jew to suspect a piece of Knavery, whereupon he greatly incens'd, demanded his Writings if he would not pay the value, as't was agreed upon: *Diomedes*, who was not only fore-arm'd, but also well accustom'd to this Rhetoric, gave him a vocal Banquet, which the Jew could neither relish nor digest, being seconded by his Guests, who, by all the circumstances they knew, or could gather, could not but harbour a bad opinion of the Jew, fell all upon him together. *Diomedes* finding the Stratagem have such success, made use of his opportunity; told the Jew if he would not desist in that impudent way of reproaching him he would kick him out of doors; the Jew on the contrary insliting upon his honest repute among men, and his abhorrence and detestation of such unjust things, as they were pleased to censure him guilty of, pray'd him again to deliver him his Writings, which *Diomedes* still refused. To be brief, the one was stout and the other stiff, all Tongue and no Ear. *Diomedes* at last push'd him out by the shoulder, and (in a seeming fury) threw to the door. Which done he applies himself to his Guests; and with a Thousand Lies and Forgeries so argues the matter, that

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bearing

bearing harmony, and consonant to what they supposed to hear and see, did so far add to their faith, that they were ready to attest the reality of the Payment upon Oath, which was forthwith by a Publick Notary (or Scrivener) then present drawn up. After this was over, the Guests sat down to Supper, and were treated in Lordly fashion, with a sumptuous Banquet, a Corrolary of Junkets and good Liquor, that done, every one went to his respective home with great contentment for so great an entertainment: and *Diomedes* who had now doubled his Estate could not but smile in his sleeve to see how well the Machine was managed.

*Mordecai* who had now met with such a *Haman* was resolved not to let the matter rest so, but with all diligence endeavour to right himself, and purposes to bring the matter to be decided by Authority, incited by his Integrity and Uprightness, which as another *Esther* might be able to ensnare this unjust *Haman* in his own Net; but as Humane Purposes are fatally disposed, and frequently fail of a lucky Issue; so by an inopinate Chance he was for that time hindered in the pursuit of his Intentions, and *Diomedes* his Troubles procrastinated, which he was liable to for so notable a cheat, the Issue therefore of this we will omit till hereafter, when we purpose to draw a scheme of his Perplexities all at once.

There



There is not any Vice so pregnant of destructive Consequences as Covetousness: That alone is both *the root of all evil*, and the Cause of Death, the just punishment of the same: Nay it is conspicuously evident to those who have but the least taste of reason, that there are but two paths to chuse, which when that leading to a future Happiness cannot with ease be passed, *in contraria current*, they cannot avoid the other, which assuredly without any further promiseth better things than the former; and certainly this has been so prevalent with *Diomedes*, our present Subject, that Friends and Aliens have had an equal respect from him, when prompted through a zeal to *Proserpina*, or, as it is stiled in sacred Writ, *Mammon*, a Deity to whom the World in this age seems to be totally devoted.

*Diomedes* had an uncle by marriage whose name was *Epacius*, this lived in a Country-house near *Hillegom*, where he spent his days with all imaginable Quiet and Tranquillity, not troubled with those incumbrances which others who live in Towns, and under the Society of Men are subject to; contenting himself with the proper and genuin products of his own lands, *Diomedes* envied this good old Gentleman, desirous to see him take a Journey to *Limbo*, he being his next heir apparent.

yet finding that this Uncle of his was still fresh, and in all likelihood might survive him, he thought there was no way to become master of his Estate, but to circumvent him by fraud, and at last found out a subtle Invention which he put in practise.

He applies himself to his said Uncle under colour of a visit, where he was caressed and received, with all signal tokens of respect and marks of Friendship, that could possibly be shown a near Relation: Nay in such sort that *Diomedes* (had not Satan blown up those infernal sparks which were bred in the bone) should not have found in his heart to play him the the prank intended; but where Covetousness acts for Empress, Vertue must aside; so far was it predominant in him that forgetting all humanity he continues in his resolution, and after some discourse counterchanged, which smell'd of nothing else but Courtesy and Piety on his side, he fell to bargaining with him, and bought 20 Oxen, paying down 300 guilders, the value whereof he had in Gold about him, signing an Obligation for the rest, which he promised to pay within a month or two, and having taken leave of his Uncle, he hired one to drive the Oxen to *Amsterdam*.

After 2 or 3 months was expired, the old Gentleman not hearing from *Diomedes*,  
turns

*of the Decay'd Merchant.* 77

turns him to his Writings, where he found the Nest, but the birds flown; for *Diomedes* had temperd the Link with such gnawing Ingredients as eat through the paper, as was shown in Pag. 64. where he serv'd the Corn-merchant after the same manner. This startled the Old man so, that he suddenly took pen in hand and writ the following lines.

Cousin,

Since Fate will have it so that I must style you thus, it makes my blood to boil, and renders me sensible, of an inward grief to think how I am lock'd in bonds of Affinity with one who is a Perpetrator of such bellish Præfises, and damnable Inventions, as I, to my smarting, find you factious in, notwithstanding your many Hypocritical expressions when I saw you last; Do you think that God directs the World blind-fold? or that your wicked Actions will go unrewarded? Leave of those unjust Courses (I advise you) and if you desire either Grace or Prosperity; and make expiation for your Past Trespases by a sincere and unfeigned Contrition, rendering to every man his own, and to me that which you stand indebted; or otherwise rest confident that I will not only have it by due Course of Law, but also bereave you of your Honour and Reputation. This consider, and do as you tender your Welfare, I am

Epacius

Diomedes so soon as he had received this Letter, seemed to be greatly concerned at the matter, and the better to maintain his esteem with supporting apparencies, against any future suspicion, he Cries *Where first*, and summon'd his Uncle to appear in Court, having in the mean time suborned a false Witness or two, to give Evidence to a forged Paper he had written, wherein *Epacius* was found to confess himself indebted to *Iustin* the Father of *Diomedes*, in the sum of Six Thousand gilders, payable in case of the decease of *Iustin* to his son *Diomedes* whereto the usual hand and mark of *Epacius* was artificially counterfeited with a different Ink from the Body of the Obligation, both temper'd with soor, to seem a writing of such standing as the date would require. Besides this he had also forged a certain Discharge, the Tenor whereof was thus.

*I the underwritten do acknowledge and confesse to have received from the hands of Epacius my Uncle, Twenty Oxen, valued according to bargain made between my said Uncle and my self, the sum of 1530 gl. which I receive in payment and abatement of the sum of 6000 gilders, due to me from the said Epacius by vertue of a Writing Obligatory, for Money lent and contracted by Merchandise. Which said sum of 1530 gild. shall be accomprable as*  
*part*

part of payment and abatement of the said sum  
of 6000 gl. without Fraud or Coven. Signed at  
Hillegom &c.

Diomedes de Le-  
bechea.

This Acquittance was cunningly sealed  
up and sent in a letter to a Countreyman, that  
lived near Hillegom, whom he had also hired  
to be assistant in the matter, he according to  
the order of Diomedes delivered it to Epacius,  
in the presence of the Court. Diomedes so  
soon as he saw him begin to open it, pray'd  
the Court to examin his Papers, which they  
did, and found the Discharge, that made so  
much for Diomedes, that sentence was pass'd  
in his favour, and the Defendant constrain-  
ed not only to renounce his pretence, but  
also condemned to pay the supposed Re-  
mainder of the sum that was mentioned in  
the Obligation, which (the price of the  
Oxen deducted) was 4470 gl.

Some few days after it happened that Di-  
omedes went to visit an acquaintance of his  
to divert himself for a few spare hours. They  
who were well acquainted with his Course  
of life, had a mind to see, if they could cir-  
cumvent him as he had done others; in order  
to which, one Manuelius the most eminent  
among them invited him to a sumptuous  
Feast, inviting several others of his Ac-  
quaintance.

So      *The Life, Rise, and Fall*

quaintance where, all Dainties were provided that were thought requisite to Entertain the Guests in splendid manner. When now at the day appointed they were met, there appeared among the rest one *Mons. le Cocque* kinsman to *Mr. Marvel*, newly come out of *France*, where his retirement was. One of them after he had passed the usual Complement to the Reception and Welcoming of a Stranger, asked him, what news he brought out of *France*? "I have little news" (replies he) which imports any thing of "Joy, otherwise I should impart it to the Company: For that which tends (though never so little) to the augmenting of mirth, would be both more acceptable and consentaneous to this present Occasion, which were not my Opinion such, I should not commit to relate a passage lately happened. The Company hearing him say so, were yet more eager to know what it might be, and so pressed him that he to answer their desire began to relate (with as much elegance as his Ability in the Language would dispence with) this following Preamble which sufficiently expressed the drift of the Story.

"Tis said (quoth he) that a Body when pamper'd, and fed with the most delicious diet (whilst it lives) Stinks most when it is dead: Even so a man when fed with  
the

the food of choicest Benefices, afterwards  
dies in the common sin of Ingratitude, the  
worms of unfaithfulness render him more  
nauseous than otherwise, and the more  
Good has been heap'd upon him the worse  
he stinks. So much that oftentimes the  
Benefactor proves his greatest foe, and  
perhaps seeks to bury him in the Grave  
of Misery: The following Narrative will  
then afford a remarkable Example of the  
shamefull and insidious deportment and  
ingratefull behaviour of one who had en-  
joyed many Favours, The Dissatisfaction  
of the Party abus'd, and the Revenge of  
of the Fact executed in most horrible  
manner.

Hillary (a younger brother to Theo-  
bald, both sons to one Mons. Hubert  
a French Gentleman of Soissons) after  
the decease of his Mother had no mind to  
spend his days with his eldest brother;  
for knowing him to be naturally morose  
and arrogant could not expect but to be  
curb'd and tyranniz'd over, resol-  
ved with himself wholly to retire, and  
betake himself to a married State and  
accordingly watches his opportunity to  
accomplish his prudent and laudable  
Design.

Not long after it was his Fate to be  
smitten with a corruscant eye-dazzling

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" Dame, by name *Angelica*, whom he could  
 " never behold without being inwardly  
 " wounded and one in whom Nature might  
 " glory as a compleat piece of Excellency,  
 " These external Ornaments besides the  
 " surpassing rare indowments of Spirit and  
 " internal Faculties of the mind, had almost  
 " bereaved young *Hillary* of Reason, and  
 " transformed him into a mute, not able to  
 " remedie himself by absence, nor any  
 " manner of Conceit, which he would wil-  
 " lingly have imposed upon his Thoughts,  
 " to drive away the Remembrance of what  
 " he thought would be his destruction, if he  
 " did not hit the mark which he must aim  
 " at: and so far was he charm'd that were  
 " he to endure 20 years slavery, with no  
 " other Commons than Bread and Water;  
 " for the Enjoyment of a Creature so rare,  
 " he would have deemed himself more hap-  
 " py than the common sort of men. But it  
 " was not long before this Idea vanished,  
 " for shortly after he was informed that the  
 " Lady had already betrothed her self by  
 " an irrevocable Engagement, and that to  
 " his eldest Brother. Upon these unwel-  
 " come tidings he grew very pensive, and so  
 " far possessed with Melancholy. That the ho-  
 " pes of a Nuptial Bed were transform'd into  
 " the dolorous suppositions of a Coffin: His  
 " time he pass'd away in sadness, complain-  
 ing



"ing of his fatal hap, and the frowns of  
"Fortune, which certainly afforded  
"but slender comfort or remedie to his  
"desperate and calamitous estate, much  
"less, means to an expetible issue of his  
"desire.

"*Theobald* on the other hand, to whom  
"the *Heavens* seem'd to grant good success,  
"spent his minutes in a perpetual joy, rare-  
"ly absent from the incomparable *Ange-  
"lica*, who caressed him with all the amo-  
"rous Delights, that a Lover could either  
"possibly wish or imagine. His love, as it  
"was surpassing vigorous, seem'd to *Ange-  
"lica* indisputably immortal; and that none  
"could be so intirely perfect in his Affe-  
"ctions as this Gentleman; who above  
"all his Courtivals and Competitors, had  
"gain'd the Ascendant in her heart. *Theo-  
"bald* now sensible of his Happiness, om-  
"mitted not to use the freedom she assen-  
"ted to, nor neglected any liberty that  
"might add to his delight. Oftentimes he  
"extoll'd her to the stars, and as often  
"indevoured to exalt himself to the apex  
"of illicit Pleasure, but she, indowed  
"with the laudable vertue of Modesty,  
"and chaste Principles, would never yield  
"to what might in the least tend to the vio-  
"lation of her honour. Arrived thus to  
"the very extreme end of his wishes, he

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understood that his brother *Hilary*, had made some manifestation of kindness to her, concluded with himself that it was purley out of envie, or at best an act of mockery, resented the matter so ill, that he determines a revenge, and to vent the effects of his fury upon him, as shortly after he did. For,

Upon a day as *Hilary* went to divert himself with hunting, *Theobald*, accompanied with 3 or 4 fellows, speeded himself toward the Chace, with an intent to dispatch him. When he supposed the feat to be effectually done, he returns home, but coming to *Angelica*, she informs him what was reported among the Neighbourhood, as that he had murdered his brother; and intreated him, as he rendered his safety to abscond, which he did.

*Hilary*, notwithstanding he was mortally wounded, yet remained in a possibility of recovery, and it just happening that 2 Peasants came riding that way, espied him wallowing in blood, and perceiving him still alive took him up into a cart and brought him to a Cottage, where by the help of an expert Chirurgion, he was cured of his wounds, and restored to his former health, when he recovered his senses, and began to remember how

How barbarously his brother had attempted to murder him by so inhumane a way; he thought it not safe for him to stay there, till his brother might come to hear of his recovery; and so perhaps assail him a second time at unawares; and to give opportunity to the loss of both their lives; he took his journey towards Vienna, where he resided some time at the Imperial court, none of his acquaintance knowing that he was alive; save a bosom friend he had, who disbursed the money for his cure, making the Chirurgeons and the Peasants in that village believe he was an Italian, to prevent further inquiry into the matter.

Angelica was all this time in great consternation about this facinorous act, which her lover had perpetrated in such a degenerate and ignoble manner; and yet could not sound the Occasion or ground of the matter. But what grieved her more, was his perpetual Absence, which could not be remedied without forfeiture of his head. At last she resolves to apply her self to some Eminent Minister of State to beg a Pardon for him, as suddenly she bethought her of a fair Opportunity, having a near Relation on the Mothers side, who was a Special Favourite of the King, and a per-

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"son of rare Conduct and great Gravity,  
 "So soon as she had intimated the Case  
 "he went to give attendance at the door  
 "of the Audience Chamber, & was after a  
 "few minutes waiting admitted into pre-  
 "sence, prefer'd an Exhibition of the  
 "Case of *Theobald*, with a Supplication for  
 "Pardon, to which his Majesty was pleas'd  
 "to give his Royal assent Returning thus  
 "to Madam *Angelica*, with a pardon in  
 "his hand, she dispatched letters to *Theo-*  
 "*bald*, who understanding himself a free  
 "Remissionary, came boldly home, and  
 "apply'd himself to his Lady, to return  
 "her thanks for the grand respect and Affe-  
 "ctions she had manifested towards him;  
 "renewing his suit, and confirming his Fi-  
 "delity and Constancy to her; which be-  
 "tween them he ratified by deep protesta-  
 "tions of his sincere meaning, binding  
 "himself with a grievous Curse never to  
 "recede from what he had already by Oath  
 "obliged his Conscience to. She on the  
 "other hand was not remiss to retaliate his  
 "Inclinations; and not only after the same  
 "manner vow'd a stability of Promise  
 "and Purpse; but allowed and accepted  
 "of his Oaths and Protestations as satisfa-  
 "ction enough to expunge all jealousy out  
 "of her mind, declaring moreover that  
 "she could very well acquiesce in what he  
 "had

"had already promised without any thing  
"more to be said by way of Addition.  
"Thus resting secure of each others Fide-  
"lity, they began to grow a little more  
"familiar, than you'll say (perhaps) was  
"seemly: so for that I would not willingly  
"use the freedom to commemorate it at  
"this time, lest I should be tax'd with  
"immodesty for my pains.

"When they had thus fruitfully spent  
"their time for some few daies together,  
"and *Theobald* already cloy'd in Pleasure,  
"laughs to think how he had attained the  
"scope of his Desires; he takes a resolu-  
"tion never to come into her Company  
"again, and forgetting her great favours,  
"and the signal marks of Love she had ever  
"shown him, he began to contemn her.  
"Her Love he rewards with hatred, her  
"service with Contempt, her Fidelity with  
"Falshood, her Zeal to preserve his life,  
"with cruel Revilings and Tauntings for  
"what he was himself equally guilty of.

"Now when *Angelica* had with great  
"Patience expected the coming of her Gal-  
"lant, but neither seeing, nor hearing of  
"him, she was wholly altered, fearing  
"that she had deceived her self in being  
"too credulous. She sends her Page forth-  
"with to his house; who desiring to speak  
"with him, *Theobald* sent him word that  
"he

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"he had nothing to do with him, nor any  
 "he was any ways concern'd with, and  
 "that he would not have any Match-makers  
 "or Wench-brokers to tread his threshold.  
 "The Page returns with this answer, which  
 "so surpriz'd the Lady that she was almost  
 "distracted, blaming her self for being too  
 "apt to beleieve the many Protestations of  
 "her Lover, aswell as him for his Treachery:  
 "yet ever would comfort her self  
 "with these thoughts, That he might  
 "probably do it to try her, although found  
 "her self shortly after in a grievous error,  
 "when news was brought her that  
 "Hilary was still alive, and returned home  
 "from the Court Imperial, that Theobald  
 "upon his arrival was set forward  
 "upon a journey for *Italy*, having taken  
 "all his Patrimony with him. These unwelcome  
 "news brought her into despair  
 "of ever redressing her mischance, and with-  
 "all into a distemper which kept her com-  
 "pany so long as she liv'd.

"Theobald arrives first at *Milain*, where  
 "he purposed to spend a little time; but as  
 "Fate would have it, grows weary of the  
 "place, alters his Resolution and sets for-  
 "ward for *Genoa*. Coming then to *Genoa*  
 "found there an opportunity to transport  
 "himself for *Venice*, and in order to his  
 "Voyage imbarques himself aboard a small  
 "Pinnace

"Pinnace bound for the *Hadriatic* Sea. So  
 "soon as they had reached the height of  
 "*Gallipoli*, were assail'd by two Corsairs  
 "belonging to *Argiers*, which without  
 "much contest took them, carried up the  
 "Pinnace to *Argiers*, and brought *Theo-*  
 "*bald*, with the rest of the Captive Slaves  
 "to the market, where they were expo-  
 "sed to sale. Our Gentleman, being well  
 "limb'd and of a robust body was not long  
 "there before he was sold to a *Moor*, who  
 "forthwith clapt a massy ponderous chain  
 "to his leggs, and let him ly in a kennel,  
 "like a dog at his chamber door. I doubt  
 "not but by that time he was sensible of  
 "his misery, not only to be brought to  
 "the Condition of a Slave, from a State  
 "so Noble and happy, but at the same  
 "time to be deprived of all he could call  
 "his own in the World, and so rendred  
 "incapable of his own Redemption and  
 "to acquire a livelyhood for the future.

"While he thus had hardly time enough,  
 "to bewail the sad and deplorable effects  
 "of his temerous and insubrid Actions,  
 "consulted now and then with his hard  
 "and uneasy pillow, how he might make  
 "his escape; but all to litle or no purpose;  
 "for he had no less than three locks to  
 "break, besides his chain. He then resolv-  
 "ed to write to the Lady *Angelica* at *Sois-*  
 "sons.

"sons, to try, if possibly he might prevail  
 "with her to procure his Redemption, and  
 "to pardon his unworthiness, with pro-  
 "mise of submission to her wils. *Angelica*  
 "receives a letter of this tenour, and was  
 "well satisfied with the matter, hoping  
 "now by this Occasion to cover her scan-  
 "dalous miscarriage, and to save the Oath  
 "which on her side so well as his was of  
 "such gravity, as a tender Conscience could  
 "not dispence with the breach of; But  
 "considering the Ransom was too high for  
 "her alone, she declares the matter to  
 "*Hilary*, intreating him to contribute the  
 "half, and promised to deposit the other  
 "half her-self, moving him to show a fra-  
 "ternal love, and notwithstanding he ow'd  
 "him his life, yet that he would not deal  
 "with him according to his merits, but  
 "rather let it be known to the World how  
 "willing he was to remitt, offences by  
 "passing by one of that moment, and re-  
 "compencing it with good. By these and  
 "the like arguments she instanced, *Hilary*  
 "was drawn to compassion with his bro-  
 "ther, and liberally paid down half the  
 "Ransom. *Angelica* having brought it to this  
 "pass, perpetually furthered the matter till  
 "she got her Vassal home. When he was  
 "arrived they begun afresh to evidence their  
 "inclinations, he promising to marry her  
 "before



"before her nine moneths were about. The  
"time was appointed, all things in prepa-  
"ration to this jovial day are taken care for.  
"At the time appointed the friends on both  
"sides repair to the wedding, and *Angelica*,  
"trick'd up in gorgeous attire, waits for  
"the joyfull coming of her Bridegroom;  
"but he instead of coming to receive his  
"Bride, and perform the Nuptial ceremo-  
"nies according to his Oath and Dury;  
"broke up a Money-chest of his brothers  
"and ran away with a notorious strumpet,  
"leaving *Angelica* to comfort her self with  
"what he had left her in pawn.

"Not long after the Lady fell in labour,  
"and was delivered of a brave son having  
"the very features of his Father. The child  
"she sent away clandestinely into the Coun-  
"treys, yet not with such privacy, but that  
"the matter was noised presently abroad,  
"as usually happens in such cases, she kept  
"her bed for several weeks together, sum-  
"moning up her wits along, how she  
"might order her affairs with her treache-  
"rous lover, who had thus unkindly dealt  
"with her. By that time she had recovered  
"her strength, *Theobald* comes home, and  
"applies himself to his brother, who de-  
"nied him reception, and threatned if he  
"did not immediately depart to turn him  
"over into the hands of Justice; he mee-  
"ting

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"ing with this disappointment, was ur-  
 "ged, to return to *Angelica*, thinking to  
 "looth her up and perform the marriage  
 "already ratified; but she considering his  
 "ingratitude and unfaithfull deportment,  
 "on the one hand, and her miscarriage  
 "with him which rendred her liable to per-  
 "petual infamy on the other, rejects him  
 "with a positive refusal; how-ever being  
 "compassionate over him through reason  
 "of his poverty gave him the value of 2000  
 "gilders, or upwards, thinking so to be-  
 "rid of him, *Theobald* takes the gift with-  
 "out the least manifestation of his grati-  
 "tude, which when he had consumed on  
 "his lusts, returns again to her, still  
 "pressing and insisting upon her promise,  
 "and at last grew so importunate that he  
 "threatned to expose her to public shame,  
 "unless she would, agreeable to her pro-  
 "mise, marry with him: but she percei-  
 "ving the villany of his purposes, to re-  
 "taliate her late benefits in such manner,  
 "harboured such a hatred against him, that  
 "those very atoms and sparks of love which  
 "till now, lay buried in the ashes were to-  
 "tally extinguished, and took the freedom to  
 "turn him off; and told him she hoped that  
 "her just Plea would be vindicated and her  
 "cause revenged, either, by the Great Judge  
 "in Heaven, or the Temporal Justice on Earth.

"*Theobald*

of the Decay'd Merchant. 93

Theobald, whose Impiety was such that he neither valued this disdainful refusal of his new suit, nor dreaded the menacing Oaths she swore, departed, and related not only to her near Relations, but to whom soever he met with, that *Angelica* was a notorious Strumpet, that she had proffered her body both to him and his Brother *Hilary*, as a voluntary Prostitute, and the like. Thus was the Lady *Angelica* exposed for a publick wanton to the World, hiss'd and hem'd after of the Rabble; which when she perceived, and the Cause thereof, she summons him up before the Criminal Bench, to make proof of what he had reported: but *Theobald* not able to make due proof thereof, suborns 2 or 3 Russians; who made oath of such detestable actions against her that the Bench without much examination so abhorred the Cause, that their Modesty would not vouchsafe it a hearing, but bade her depart, and for the future be of better deportment or else expect the punishment due for such misbehaviour.

*Angelica* finding her self thus abused in her Cause, and her self become a publick Reproach; resolves to revenge her of this Wrong, and to reward her *quondam* Lover for his unjust doings; in order to which she sends her Page to *Theo-*

*bald,*

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"bald, with Instructions to invite him to  
 "Supper with her, and reconcile their  
 "Difference, with a Glass of Wine. It was  
 "a matter of doubt whether *Theobald* was  
 "more amazed or overjoy'd at this unex-  
 "pected Invitation; but holding it for  
 "the wisest Course to take her in the ha-  
 "mour, promised he would give atten-  
 "dance, and accordingly at the hour ap-  
 "pointed where she (as far as her inward  
 "fury would dispence with) courteously  
 "received him, with all imaginable to-  
 "kens of joy, and Carresses. So soon as the  
 "Table was set with Dishes, she sat down  
 "next *Theobald* (hardly able all the time,  
 "to contain her rage, or deferr the exe-  
 "cution of her passion one moment lon-  
 "ger.) It seemed by some circumstances  
 "that she intended to make him drunk, but  
 "being too impatient, to dispatch him, by  
 "so tedious a way, she took the oppor-  
 "tunity (when he endeavour'd to kiss  
 "her) to stab him with a Knife that lay  
 "by her plate on the Table, upon which  
 "he fell down to the Ground, not able to  
 "recover himself so far as to make the least  
 "resistance, thus finding that he was made  
 "incapable of defending himself, he beg-  
 "ged mercy, and pray'd her that she  
 "would not use such cruelty in revenging  
 "her self of his unworthy carriage, to  
 "which

“ which she answered that no torment could  
“ be thought too cruel for so base a wretch  
“ as he was, and that she would not grant  
“ him so great a favour to purchase a new  
“ discontentment: with that she slash'd off  
“ his nose, and mangled his face in lament-  
“ able manner, pick'd out both his eyes,  
“ and then stab'd him 3 or 4 times in the  
“ belly, where still alive he lay wallowing  
“ in blood: and, so well as his decaying  
“ vitals would give him leave, pray'd her  
“ to dispatch him outright, and rid him  
“ of that miserable pain, but she who was  
“ ready to do any thing more than what  
“ he desired, replyed that a speedy death  
“ were too great a mercy, and to prevent  
“ his being importunate that way, with  
“ the help of her Knife tore his tongue,  
“ out, crying, This is that devilish In-  
“ strument which has so many times been  
“ the occasion of my wo, which has brought  
“ this villain and my self to this miserable  
“ State, May this be the reward of every  
“ false and treacherous Varlet; and with  
“ that, threw it away, and began to rip up  
“ his breast for his heart: but her servants  
“ who probably were ordered for that time,  
“ to kee out of the Chamber, hearing  
“ this noise, and such unwonted expres-  
“ sions, rush'd in, and seeing this doleful  
“ spectacle were in a great amazement, and  
“ did

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" did what they could to stop the Course of  
 " her fury, but all too late; for although they  
 " could well see that he was then alive, yet  
 " it was not long before he was a Corpse.  
 " The Servants took the Knife from her,  
 " and used all the persuasions they could  
 " to reduce her to the knowledge of her  
 " self, and to be sensible of such an inhu-  
 " mane and insubid feat; and at last prevail-  
 " ed so far with her that she began to be  
 " deeply sorry for what was done, and to  
 " consider, that she was not likely to escape  
 " the hands of Justice for the same, which  
 " seriously weighing with her self, she  
 " grew desperate and attempted to stab her  
 " self, but was hindred by her servants, who  
 " advised her to make her escape, to which  
 " she seemingly assented, and in order  
 " thereto bid them saddle a couple of Gel-  
 " dings. Whilst the men were gone to fetch  
 " out the horses, she slipped out at a back-  
 " door and threw her self headlong into a  
 " Well, that was in the middle of the yard,  
 " and so reveng'd Herself of Herself.

" The horses now being brought forth,  
 " and all things in a readiness, one of the  
 " servants steps in to tell her, but not find-  
 " ing her in the Dining Room, went  
 " through all the Rooms in the house, and  
 " at last into the Court to seek her, where  
 " at last he found her in the Well, with the

" feet

“feet just above water , upon which the  
“Neighbours were called together , and af-  
“ter a thorow inquiry into this dismal feat ,  
“and the cause , unanimously concluded  
“*Theobald* the Occasion of his own and her  
“untimely end.

So soon as this story was ended , gave  
each man his Opinion about the same , which  
that we may not detain you with any pre-  
vious discourse we shall omit. *Manvelius*  
in the mean time gave his Guests great  
Contentment with a laudable entertain-  
ment , where plenty of every thing that  
might add delight to the Eye , or Pallat , was  
as it were poured out of a *Cornucopia* , Nor  
were the Guests tardie to acknowledge the  
same , exprelling their great satisfaction by  
variety of Complemental Elogies on this  
splendid Treat.

*Diomedes* (who all this time seems to have  
lain dormant) was not remiss to afford what  
mirth he could to the Company , in telling  
of several pretty stories , of which he was  
well furnished.

Among the Guests was a certain Gentlewo-  
man called *Christina* ; whose name , how well  
it agreed with her temper , you may judge  
by the sequel. This Gentlewoman suited  
the humour of *Diomedes* as well as she  
could , till at last *Diomedes* was so far ta-  
ken with her that he covered what was not

consistent with Vertue; and at last they understood one another so well that she went into a Chamber alone, whither he follow'd, and was for some time held up with a few Ceremonies, not much pertinent to the matter he came about, till she made a shift to pillage him of a Gold watch of a very high value, which he not once perceived. This done they parted without any further mischief, and full satisfaction to *Diomedes*, who contrary to his purpose miss'd his Venereal Corrolary wherewith, he thought to compleat his Epicurean Banquet. After the Guests had given the usual Complement to *Manvelius* they departed each to his habitation; *Diomedes*, who all this while knew not of his loss, goes to bed, and in the morning when he awoke, began to look for his watch to see what a clock it was, but found it not.

Yet was he not so much concern'd at the loss, as that he knew not who should be the Thief, and was in default of proof constrain'd to hold his tongue and put up the matter in quiet.

A few days after came *Manvelius* to give him a visit, accompanied with Monsr. *le Cocq* the Frenchman, and a third person, who in the project was to represent a strange Merchant. *Manvel* upon his first saluting him, began to beg excuse for his boldness,



ness, and so gradually proceeded on to the purpose. Sir said he, I am heartily sorry that I am necessitated to give you a trouble which I little dream'd on, this Gentleman having made a journey expressly to receive a sum I am owing him, and has happened to come just as I am out of Cash, having yesterday paid off 3 considerable Summs, and the day before cleared Accompts with some of my Correspondents, so that being out of moneys, I beseech you be so kind, as to supply me with a Thousand Ducatoons, for three Moneths, wherein you will highly oblige me to do the like or greater favour, when your Occasions and my Opportunity concurr. *Diomedes* jointly considering *Manvelius* his Reputation and Civility, could not deny him, counts down the money. *Manvelius* hereupon shows him a Blank bond which he had made, wherein *Diomedes* was to confess himself to have a Diamond-Ring of *Manvels* for a Pledge, which he desired him to sign. To this *Diomedes* assents, on Condition *Manvel* was to sign another for the money. Now after a short previous Colloquy, *Manvel* desires *Diomedes* to sign, which he did, having in the mean time clandestinely taken away that Obligation, wherein the Pawn was specified, and laid down another in the lieu of it, whose

Contents was, That *Diomedes* confessed himself Debrer to *Manvel* in the Sum of 25000 *gl.* which *Diomedes*, not sensible of the fraud, without any difficulty signs. This done, *Manvel* and his Company took their leave of *Diomedes*, well satisfied that the matter took so well.

This Mischance was also seconded by another. For a certain Boor living near *Amsterdam*, who had in former time been deceived by *Diomedes*, took upon him to be revenged on him for it, which he thus put in practise.

He had in his house a servant-maid to whom he imparted his aggrivance, and withall told her his purpose of retaliation. To this maid he gave Instructions, and delivered her 2 pair of Pendants, the one pair fine, the other false, but so like each other in fashion that an ordinary Judgment could not distinguish them. With these she posts away to *Diomedes*, where coming to speak with him, she profferd them to sale, telling him that she was of good parentage, notwithstanding her then being in the state of a Servant, in which state she had diligently served for several years together, and so saved a small sum of money, which she then intended to dispose of to an advantagious end, only wanted about an hundred gilders more, which she

she pray'd him that he would do her the favour to lend her upon the Pendants.

*Diomedes* who had a reasonable Judgment in Jewels could not value them less than 6 times the money, readily gave her the Sum she ask'd upon them, on Condition she should pay 15 ft. per moneth Interest, and sign'd a Writing whereby he confessed to have received such Jewels from her, which upon payment of the moneys lent he was obliged to make restitution of.

Whilst he was busy in writing the said Note, the Wench clandestinely drew out the false Pendants, and Convey'd the true into her Handkerchief, which she lay on the table, as a necessary instrument for a *Hocus pocus* trick in time of need.

For that time they took their leaves of each other, and the maid returns to her master, and told him what had pass'd, which pleas'd him extremely well.

Some time after the Peasant came to *Diomedes* at *Amsterdam*, and presented him a bargain of Oxen, promising to afford him a good penny-worth, and a long day of Payment. This pleas'd *Diomedes* extremely well, having found so rare an occasion to chouse the Clown, so that he deemed it more than a venial sin, to neglect such a golden opportunity: he therefore returns the Peasant answer, that he would take a

walk that way into the Countrey and, with one see his Oxen.

In the mean while *Diomedes* calls to mind, how he had been cheated by a Servant wench (not knowing that it was a Contrivance of the Peasant) set up his wind-pipes and told the Story; sharply reprehending the vices and ungodly Practises of this Iron-age; and gloss'd the whole matter, with so much Candor and Integrity, that the Peasant, if his Conscience had not been asleep, must needs have repented his designed Revenge. Never were two better met, the one acting Idiot, and the other Puritan; the Peasant under a colour of Simplicity, and downrightness, assented to every reason of *Diomedes*, without any deeper Sentence, than, *Good-lack-a-day; What will this World come to at last? well is 't possible? What a sinfull Age, is this we live in?* and the like. After this manner they spent the tediousness of the way, which indeed, was too long for them both.

As soon as they were arrived at the house of the Boor, and *Diomedes* set down, in comes the maid, whom *Diomedes* so soon as he saw knew to be the same that had put a trick upon him. He was no longer able to withhold his fury, but immediately taxes her with the cheat, and gave her a whole

whole Fear of Mabs and Jades. But the wench, who had no small measure of Impudence, first made as if she were amaz'd, and afterward, began to act her part, and with one told him that he was himself a cheat, and that he should not put her off so, in telling her that the Pendants were counterfeit, which she had brought him; for she could bring manifest proof to the contrary. Upon that she ran out in all haste, and called an Officer, who arrested him there in the Room. Diomedes thus surprized, addresses himself to the Boor, and makes his complaint, what hard measure he had. But the Boor instead of comforting him, threatened to fall upon his Bones. *You rascal,* quoth he, *think you that I will justify your villany, or that this hypocritical Expressions have wrought so far upon me, as to have such a mean conceit of this good Gentlewoman, who is as well fam'd for her Vertue, as thou art infamous for thy Villany. These Jewels to my knowledge are not false, but it is thy naughtiness would persuade me to it, for they have been twice sold for more than 3000 gl. and if thou wilt not return them; Wee'l convert thy bones into Dice.*

Diomedes hearing that unwelcome Eccho, had not patience to restrain his fury longer, gives the Boor such a Dandy-flute on the Jaws, that he reel'd again; but

the Peasant, who was no novice at this game, lent him a blow with his fist, that made his noddle ring; and finally together they close, where at the first jirk, the Peasant had our Merchant under his rustic Carcase, where he so pepper'd him off, that *Diomedes* began to beg his pardon; which when he saw that the Boor would not hear at that ear, began to cry out, Murther; but the Peasant to throw all difficulty from off his own shoulder; put his hand in *Diomedes* his pocket, and drew out his Knife, which had his name on the haft, and threw it upon the floor. This done, he cries out for help; the neighbours who seeing this bloody Scene, and the Peasant crying out *Murther, Murther*, ran all together upon *Diomedes* and used him in most barbarous fashion; others in the mean while ran to fetch the *Schout* (or Constable) who carried him to a new lodging, though sore against his will; where he was fain to stay a day or two before he could get a Hearing. When he was brought before the Bench, in order to have his Case tried, there appeared 8 or 9 of the Neighbourhood on behalf the Boor, who swore point blank against *Diomedes*, as, That he fell upon the Boor without any reason. That he drew his Knife with intent to stab him, and, That he went about to circumvent the maid, &c. When all these things were heard,







heard, and the Oathes tendered and taken; the Court ordered *Diomedes* to pay the Charges, and the value of the Jewels and to remain in prison till either the Moneys were paid, or security was given. This startled *Diomedes* so, that he began to revile the Court for such an unjust Sentence: but when they threatned to whip him, *pro Contemptu Curie*, he was fain to lay his hand to his mouth and give them better Language. This done the Court broke up, and *Diomedes* was remanded to Prison, where he remained some days, till by Council he mov'd for an Appeal, which they could not refuse. But when he thought himself a free man again, the Officer of Justice, made a new demand upon him, for drawing of his Knife, and so committed him to Custody again, for these new Pretences. *Diomedes* thus brought again to another sorrow, was out of hopes of making his Escape, for the *Schout* would not take any other security than ready money, or the value in hand. However he began to look about if he could see a hole to make his escape, and at last espied one; through which he forced his swinging Carcase; though that being too high from the ground on the out side, he durst not jump off; but seeing a litle thatch'd house on the north side of the prison he resolves that way, and off he

comes, but the Roof being a little too weak he fell quite through, and so upon a Bed, on which lay a young Countrey wench, and her Paramour, without knowledge of her Father or Mother. These sinners were not a little amaz'd, but thinking that some Judgement was come upon them for their wicked doings, it being dark, one ran one way, and the other, the other way, but whither, I protest I never yet could learn: however I think it good to follow our Merchant, whom methinks I see running for *Amsterdam*, with his tail between his legs.

By that time *Diomedes* was got home, and hardly got a good nights rest, came *Manvelius* to salute his Knaveship; praying him with one to pay the 20000-gild. The twenty thousand guilders (quoth *Diomedes*) pre'thee what dos't mean man? explain thy self: *Manvelius* hereat counterfeited as much amazement, as he, and urged him to pay it without many words, or controversy; and not to pretend ignorance, or make the thing strange. To be brief they grew so hot that *Diomedes* held up his fist to give him a Sarabrand; whereupon, *Manvel*, who was no great affecter of such sport-ran out immediately to the City-messenger (or Bailif) to summon him up to the Town-house, where after the matter

was

was debated, *Diomedes*, lost the tryal: upon which he appeals to a higher Court, where at that time he had another Trial, which was but of small moment, and that he won, but this which was of greater importance, was given against him; and he condemned to pay the money, which he did without showing himself much concern'd for the matter: though resolved to be revenged by some stratagem or other; which also succeeded well. For,

Having now designed his Machine, he bribed 4 or 5 Persons to be assistant to him in this affair; who glad of the opportunity promised to behave themselves according to his Direction. One of them was to be *Don Philippo*, forsooth, dress'd and attired in a gentile habit, to suit an Earlob Baron. Two other of his Camrades he put in Livery, like Pages, who were to follow *Don Philippo*. After instructions given, *Don Philippo* marches up and down; and passed several times by the door of *Mr. Manvel*, whom at length he found standing before his house. *Don Philippo*, steps up gingerly to him, salutes him, with all imaginable courtesy, and told him, he thought himself the happiest man alive, to meet with so good a friend, asking him about his health and how affairs stood; *Manvel*, who was not one of the stiffest, received

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him with such courtesy as he thought might suit a person of his *Calibre*, and really thought with himself that he had seen him some where before, but durst not make so bold as to ask him at first, Who he was? *Don Philipppo* pursues his complement, and finally breaks off with the recommendation of *Monfr. Le Cocque*, whom he said he had seen (for *Diomedes* had made him acquainted with all necessary circumstances about him) he being but lately set forward for *France*. *Manvel* hearing that prays him to step in, which *Don Philipppo* excused, thinking it time enough to accept it at the second intreaty; but *Manvel* thought perhaps the Gentleman might probably be in haste, and therefore would not be too importunate, insomuch that *Sr. Philip*, for that time missing of his expectation, took his leave of him, and went into an Inn, in the next street, where he took up his Lodging for that night. The next morning having consulted with his *Confœderate Diomedes*, he sent him this following Letter.

*Monfr. Manvel,*

SALUT.

*The Inclination which I have to towards your person, for many considerable causes and reasons, moves me to let you understand of a rich Opportunity I have in serving you*

you in a bargain of such Commodities as I am sensible you deal in, which may tend to your advantage, if you will please to come over, and honour me with your presence. I make no doubt but you will think your Journey worth the while, and consequently make an advantageous bargain, which is the only desire and hope of.

Rotterdam, &c.

SIR,

Your faithfull Servant  
Anth. van Breuckel,  
Broker.

*Manvel*, upon the reading of this Letter, determines to set forward to Rotterdam, and make use of such an opportunity, especially because the same Broker from whom this Letter was supposed to come, had formerly sent him advice about some particular affairs which fell out very luckily: and according to this Resolution sets forward that night.

In the mean time *Sir Philip*, the Mock-Baron, sends to know whether *Manvel*, was gone or not; and being informed he was, goes with his Pages *pro tempore*, to *Manvels'* wife, to act the Part intended. *Diomedes* had in the mean time assured him that she was a brisk, open-hearted Dame, and therefore gave him encouragement to

use the more freedom with her. When he had got access and found her in every thing congruous with the Character *Diomedes* had given him, he began first to entertain her with soft and fair discourse, and so gradually to take a larger liberty, till he had got the scope he aim'd at, and won her consent to go to bed with him. This the Pages marking they acted their parts with the Maids below, who spared not for wine all the time, till the Maids were both so drunk that, they were not sensible what they did, and at last fell both asleep, the one under the Kirchin Table, and the other in the Cellar before the tap, with a great Stone-bottle in her arms. When the Pages saw that the coast was clear, the Mistress above with their Master, the Maids-fall asleep, and the Doors at the Order of Mrs. *Manvel*, securely bolted, began to hunt up and down the house for Keys: which after a little seeking they found, and went to a Money-chest where they met with 16000 Ducats. Having got the Money, they ran out leaving the door open and knockt at some of the Neighbours doors, praying them to have the goodness to come to the passing of Mrs. *Manvel*, who lay desperately sick. This done they betook them to their heels. The Neighbours who held it their duty to visit Mrs. *Manvel* in such a time,

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time, especially, as some of them knew that her husband was gone from home, went in, and coming into the chamber where she was wont to ly, stood a litle at the door, whispering together, and at last opened the door very softly, to go in. Don Philip hearing the door open, drew back the Curtain and sees 3 or 4 women marching softly toward the Bed-side; upon which to avoid further trouble he jumps out of bed in his Waist-coat and Drawers, and with his Upper-garment upon his arms made all the haire he could toget, out before any more of that kind of people came: leaving his Breeches behind him, in which was a Copy of that Letter that he had sent Mr. Manvel, dated from Retterdam.

Diomedes who tickled mightily to see the issue of the Project, was not far from them, but looking out, saw a heap of Seamen's wives at *Manvels'* door, ran forthwith to see what was the matter and after a litle inquiry learned how the matter was. Well (quoth he) such People ought to be punished without mercy who violate their Husbands beds. It were a sin in the highest nature to conceal it; and those who would keep such things from the knowledge of Justice deserve as much themselves. But litle needed he to urge the matter much, for that were but to teach his Grandame to eat eggs. Within an hour  
or

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or two comes an Officer, whom Mrs. *Manvel* was fain to see with a pledge of Jewels.

Within 2 days after arrived *Manvel* from *Rotterdam*, and hearing what had happened was very ill at ease, wishing that he had not taken that journey, being now ashamed to show his head abroad, and restless with his wife at home. However he resolves to ease himself of the latter, and in order thereto goes about to get a Divorce, which was granted him: Upon which he returns his wife her Dowry reserving but a very mean Portion for himself.

*Diomedes*, although in some regard sufficiently revenged, yet was not satisfied with this but soon after put another thing in practise.

He had acquaintance with one *Luke* a Wine-couper, who had been privy to the most part of his Roguery when he sold wine himself: to him he imparted his design, and promised to hold him harmless and run the Risque himself, if he would but undertake the Act. *Luke* was herewith content, and according to the Instructions of *Diomedes* went to *Manvel*, proffering him a bargain of *Rhenish* wine; which he told him he would afford him cheaper than the common Price, because he had occasion for ready money. *Manvel* then seeing the man in a strait; thought to make a prize  
of



of him, went with him to his Cellar, where he tasted of several Hogsheads and before he came away struck a bargain with him for three thousand Guilders, to be delivered and paid that night. *Manvel* then goes to make room for the Wine in his Cellar, and *Luke* in the mean time removes those Hogsheads which *Manvel* had bought, out of their place, and put others in their room, which were fill'd with sour wine, and in every tun was a pipe made of Lattin, cunningly fastned in the inside. These were filled with Gun-powder, and match fastned to the Ends thereof, being of a considerable length from the powder, that it could not burn so as to give fire for some considerable time. By that time the Wine-couper had laid his Machin, *Manvel* comes in with the money, which was paid and received according to the purport of the Bargain. When he had got the Wine home, and set in order in the Cellar, he went to Supper, where he had scarcely sitten a quarter of an hour, but he heard a fearfull cracking, and the house fell a shaking. Upon this he was not a litle altered; yet thinking, because it was hot weather, that it might be thunder, he sent one of his men to see if his Warehouse windows were to; for that side next the street was stow'd with Flax. But by that time his Servant was got to the inner-

innerdoor, the greatest pipe took fire which made all fly about; the hoops were broken to shivers, and the floor of the Parlour where they sat at Table, broke through, being directly over the Cellar where the Tuns were; and at once broke all his Porcelayn, and a costly Looking-glass.

*Diomedes* longing to hear of the issue and effect of the machin, goes to a public house hard by, where he had not been above half an hour before he heard it crack and thunder, and suddenly saw the whole street in an alarm, none knowing what was the matter. *Diomedes* together with those that were in the house ran whither they judged the report came from, and found the Warehouse door of *Manvel* open, with a multitude of people at a distance not daring to come anigh it, much less so courageous as to enter in, till such times as they saw *Manvel* with two of his men come trembling down stairs, with a candle in the one hand and a Crucifix, or an *Agnus Dei* in the other. But before *Manvel* was come to the middle of the stairs he fell down through the steps (the stair-case being all shattered loose with the force of the Powder) where he was up almost to the middle, in leakage of the wine, crying out, help! help! I drown, I sink, I drown, I sink, upon which one of his men which thought

to pull him out came also tumbling down upon him, the candle falling out of his hand. *Manvelius* hereat surprized wist not what to think, but supposing it had been the Devil began to lay about, which the man took so well out that he paid him again in the same coin, in short, they bang'd it about with such courage that had not the other man come hastily with another candle lighted, they had both smothered in Wine. *Diomedes*, who to his hearts contentment, was all this while a spectator of the scene, had almost lost his breath with laughing, and to give *Manvel* a hint, cryed out, If a man were indeed so zealous to fight the Devil, he would scorn his help in cheating of honest men. *Manvelius* not able to creep through the way he came, (the dimension of his Gut-case being with the thickest) was fain to go out at the street door, partly because of his being tipsie with tumbling in Old Rhenish, hardly able to steer his Course, and partly because of the Rabble that crôuded about the door. He was no sooner come out, but the people being inquisitive how it came, and what was the matter: when he to satisfy their curiosity told all he knew of the thing. *Diomedes* among the rest hearing all, it so tickled his fancy, that he could hardly contain himself of laughter, which he indeavoured to  
 bridle

bridle so well as he could, to prevent suspicion.

*Manvelius* upon this gets an Ague which kept him in his bed: finding out in the mean time the trick which was put upon him by the bursten pipes, match and smell of powder; and for the same summons the wine merchant to appear before the Magistrate, who could not deny the fact, but refers himself to *Diomedes*, who being likewise sent for, denied to know any thing of the matter, but wholly pretending ignorance, the Wine-merchant received Sentence of Banishment and a Fine, by which means he was utterly ruined.

*Diomedes* had a Cousin married to one *Ambrose* with whom he held a long correspondence, and had a great kindness for. About these happened an odd passage, which I hold not impertinent to insert here, being both comical and ridiculous. This *Ambrose* her husband was one, who had but little value or esteem for the world, unless for it's Mōvsture, being deeply in Love with *Peau de vie*, or Brandy. Mrs. *Antbonette*, that was the Gentlewomans name, was reasonably fair, and might pass for a beauty, but never could get the ascendant of her husband, who was more inclined to *Bacchus* than *Venus*. This beastly life of his made her almost weary of Life.

Ne-

Never came he in without a Guid, and whether she *Carded* or *Spun* at home, he was sure to *Reel* abroad: and when he was come home must be lifted into bed. *Anthoñette* would often admonish him to leave off these tiresome and dishonourable Courses, where by he did not only loose his reputation amongst men, and make her a Mockingstock to her Neighbours, but ran headlong into ruin, and would at last reduce himself and her into such a condition, as would render their Lives uncomfortable. But this rather provoked his Wrath than Amendment: insomuch that he told her that if she did not desist and let him alone he would in place of spending a penny spend a pound, and for the future take a greater liberty than he had hitherto don. Mrs. *Anthoñette* seeing that he was already without the bounds of reason, imparted her grievance to *Diomedes* praying him, if he knew any Council for her, or a mean to draw him from this loose course of Life. *Diomedes* was (as appears by our foregoing discourse) subtile enough in invention, and resolute in putting a thing into practise, promised to do his best and assist her when he met with an opportunity, which would be best, when he came home drunk again.

It was not needfull that he should wait long

long for that Occasion, for it was almost a miracle to find him sober at night. She therefore prays *Diomedes*, to do it so soon as he could: and accordingly he promised that night he would. *Antholette* stood at her door in the Evening waiting for her husband, whom at length she saw at a distance; surveying the breadth of the streets, with a train of boys after him, who convoy'd him to his door: where being come he complements his wife after his old mood, with his hat to the ground, and a hundred *baje los manos*, till at last stumbling upon a great stone, he lay as flat as a Flounder. *Antholette* seeing him ly so, pray'd her Neighbours to help him in a doors, where they tug'd and wrestled, till they got him into the Parlour. This done she sends her maid to *Diomedes*, who without delay came and found friend *Ambrose* in the condition we left him in. *Diomedes* gave order to unharness him which was accordingly done. When he was stript, he wrapt him up in a Winding Sheet, and lay him handsomly in an old sugar Chest and carried him down into the Cellar, where they stopt all the windows close that he could see no light; and tied an *English* Water-dog to his feet. That done they went up. *Antholette* put her self into deep mourning, which she had upon the

Death

Death of her Father. *Diomedes* took a Goats hide which he fastned about his bodie, that was so neatly contrived, that one would have taken him for a Devil, or at best a Monster. Two persons more were hired, to complete the Stage, whereof one of them was put into another chest, like a Coffin, at a small distance from *Ambrose*: the other was like *Diomedes* shrouded in a Goats-skin. When they were in their Acting garb, they went down into the Cellar, and lay some loose grains of powder about the Chest in which the merry *Ambrose* lay, and ever now and then tilted up the Coffin at both ends, letting it fall down again with a great force: the other that was to represent a Corps, all the time upon a heap of wood in the Corner. *Anthouette* caused her maid to dress her self in an ougly Robe, made of old rags of divers colours, with a black long-snouted visage. And artificial breasts made of two bags of sand, which hung down to her middle. When all this was done they began to dance round about the Chest, roared and yelled so long till he awoke, which when they perceived, the two mock-devils ran and embraced him, rubbing their snaky wiggs against his cheeks, which put him into such a Sweat that all he had about him was as wet as if it had lay in water, fain would he look up but

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but durst not move or stir ; for *Diomedes* looked at him so grim , as the Devil over *Lincoln* , and he with his eies fix'd upon *Diomedes* durst not look another way , for fear the Devil should take him for a living soul. While they stood gazing at one another , the other Devil *in forma* came , and threw half a dozen live-eels into the Coffin which began to creep up and down over his whole body and face ; yet durst he not cry out or stir , for *Diomedes* had him so fast in his eie that he held him strictly in aw. When this was done , they put fire to the loose grains of Powder , which flew all into a flame round about him. This caus'd some alteration & made him cry out ,

**Ick bid u doch , Heer Dupbel , soo ghy de Man zp diemen soo veel lof van spreken , seght mijn daar ick ben , en hoe dat ick hier home te geraldien. Verschoont my doch dat ick die verppostighept gebuyche om H. E. aen te spreken , want ick ben een broome Hollander , en betale daar ick schuldigh ben ; selfs mijn Waardinne ur't Schile van Vranckrijck , die de meeste hadde te pretendeeren , heb ick tot den uptersten duyt betaalt. That is , Good Mr. Devil , if you be the Gentleman I have heard so much talk of , do me the favour to tell me wherg I am , or how I came hitber , and please to pardon the liberty I take to ask**

you



for I am an honest Hollander, and pay my  
 debts. My very Landlady at the French Arms,  
 I have paid to a farthing which was the grea-  
 test sum I ow'd. In this dreadfull Pickle he lay  
 panting, but could not screw an answer  
 from his Devilship. At last he pray'd they  
 would let him go away. You fool (said the  
 other that lay in the Corner) do you think that  
 we shall ever come out of Hell? no, no. Remember  
 how often you have called out, **Den Dupbel**  
**haalt my**, The Devil fetch me, and now you  
 see what a sad condition you are in, and  
 how he has once got you in his clutches. You have  
 wholly dedicated your precious time to drink-  
 ing, and shall ere long, see the reward of  
 such impious courses as you have made choise  
 of, and have leisure to wish you might live  
 the time again, when all will be to no purpose.  
 I am in the same condition you are in, and  
 would (were it in my power) give ten thousand  
 Worlds to live my time again: but to little pur-  
 pose is my wish; my opportunity I have lost,  
 which can never be recalled, and the golden  
 minutes I was so prodigal of, are a greater  
 Hell to me, than Hell it self as thou poor cai-  
 tis, ere long, shalt be made sensible of, on thy  
 behalf. Ambrose hearing that really beleaved  
 that he was dead and already before the  
 Postern of Hell. After he had lay in this  
 condition an hour or more; the two De-  
 vils took him up, the one by the head,

and the other by the heels, made him fast with ropes, and so dragg'd him to a Post, where they bound him so, that he could neither move hand nor foot: which done they took each a whip, that was made for the purpose, and one of them with a hoarse voice bad him confess his Offences. He seeing them in good earnest, began to mutter it out by degrees. "The first was his  
 "Drunkenness, as that he now and then  
 "took a cup of the Creature, more then  
 "did him good, That he had abused the  
 "good counsel of his wife, who had many  
 "times forewarned him of Perils continually attending both body and soul.  
 "That drinking somerimes with a Good-fellow, or two, when they went aside,  
 "he would clandestinely drink off a glass,  
 "wipe his mouth, and fill it again. That  
 "he had several times and in several places  
 "lay with such and such Gentlewomen. This *Antionette* overhearing had hardly the Patience to hold her tongue, being now ascertain'd of what she was theretofore never jealous of. When they had wrought with him so long as they could, and that he could confess no more; They let him done gently, and brought a bottle of Brandy, which they temper'd with *Opium*, and *Diacodium*; adding a litle spirit of Hartshorn and *Affasatida*; the first to make him sleep, and the latter,

After, by way of circumstance to suit the Place, and Condition of the Patient. This Porion they forced him to drink, which at first he was unwilling to do, yet when they threatned to commit him to the Flames he quaff'd it off, hoping by his obedience, now, to be excused another time. This having done he was again drunk, and by the vigour and vertue of the sleeping Ingredients, fell into a deep slumber. Which being effected they brought him up into his own bed, and drew off their Infernal Robes, and put on Terrestrial Garbs. *Ambrosette* remained still in her mourning Weed, and one of her Assistants put on a moodish suit, suitable to a Gentleman of Quality, who was to represent a Bridegroom and the other who was to be his Friend. *Diomedes* was also in sleight mourning, being cousin to *Ambrosette* as was said before, and *Appolonia* served at Table. When they were all set, they began to dance and make a great noise, which at length, though hardly, awakened *Ambrose*, who was in a thousand troubles when he thought upon what had happened, sometimes would endeavour to perswade himself that it was only a dream or whimsy, and would vanish in time; yet again that it must assuredly be real, by the Wounds and boils he had about his body; and seeing the face of things quite altered.

it confirmed his belief the more. At last seeing Glasses go round briskly, and his *Anthouette*, drinking to every one respectively began to cry out, *Oh Good friends have a care what you do, and listen a little to what has happened to me.* Hardly had he opened his mouth, but all rose from the Table, and began to shriek out, as if they had been indeed amazed, one running this way, and another that way, and finally every one out of the Chamber *Anthouette* only excepted, who fell down upon the floor, as if she had fainted away. This *Ambrose* marking durst not rise up to help her, fearing to make her worse but began to call out to the maid, *Appolonia, Appolonia*, no maid makes answer, *Anthouette* lies still, and *Ambrose* lay still in his bed, musing on what was past, being all in a sweat; till at last by the virtue of the Potion he fell into a slumber again, and consequently into a deep sleep. This *Anthouette* observing, she ran out softly and thanked the respective persons for their service and caused the maid to uncover the Table in the dark, without making the least noise, and so pulling off her Mourning Weed, went to bed, to her husband, sleeping by him a good part of the next day.

When *Ambrose* awaked, saw it was day, and found his wife by his side, was in a hun-

*of the Decay'd Merchant.* 125

hundred quandaries, not knowing what to say, or think. At last he began to push his wife till she awaked, and asked her, how she came there; and, If she was not afraid to have a Ghost to her bed-fellow. *Antholette* hearing him speak with such an absolute zeal, could hardly contain her self of laughter. Pre'thee my Dear, (quoth she) what dost mean? Do you go about to make me laugh, or to put me in a fright. I beseech you explain your self; and I shall perhaps answer your expectation and design. Upon this he asked her, If he was not lately dead and she about to marry with another? This coming so seriously from him made her laugh whether she would or no: yet made as if she looked upon this as meer dotage, and the effects of wine. *Ambrose* still held on in this discourse, and did all he could to asseverate the passages which he imagined to have truly happened, from whence *Antholette* concluded, that the Stratagem had had a good success. Pursuing his discourse after some few ejaculations, he began to express sincere intentions of repentance, and to become a new man, saying, Oh, that the Heavens would but grant this one thing, That I might always persevere and remain in this good purpose of Life, I should never so far forget my self as to do those things, which I am now sensible tend to eternal destruction. But,

*alas! what remedy? or, what helps my bare and simple wish, my time is past, and I am now bound to go on a long journey, for which to my grief I am unprepared.* More he endeavored to speak but could not for weeping. Which, with these expressions pleas'd her to the heart, hoping for the future, to enjoy a peaceable life, with our new Convert: and seeing him in such a perplexity began to drive the thing out of his head, and assured him that he was still alive, and that he had perhaps been in a Trance, which might probably have been for a happy warning, and to make him sensible of his condition and of the state he was in, by suffering himself to be so drawn aside with ill company, and letting loose the reins of his lust and libidinous propensity, which every man is inclined to by nature, and the like. But say what she could, he could hardly beleieve but that the thing was real, and that he had verily been tormented, for it was already high light day, and he in his perfect senses, yet had still the wounds about him; and to be short he became for the time a pure Convertit, and fully resolved with himself, to be more circumspect in his actions, and never again to bath in the Sea of *Bacchus*, lest he should chance to drown in the Abyss of *Pluto*: and so effectual was this mean that altho his own wife (who before had

had work enough to restrain him) had offered him Wine, he would not so much as once tast it; nay, so abominable was it to him that he could neither endure to see or smell it: his Tossing off whole Bowls, was now turned to a nauseous Vomiting, and the charming Delights of good liquor changed into a detestable and loathsome Abhorrency.

Five full years continued this passage in great privacy, before *Ambrose* discover'd the Trick, for it was done with the knowledge of too many persons to be always concealed, or held under the Rose: at what time (by I know not what pick-thank) he was informed how his wife with the help of some others, had deluded him; which nevertheless his fury was in some manner too strong for him to bridle, yet being sensible of what he had confessed at the whipping post, he held fast the Rains of his wrath, lest he should be twitted of his belluina actions: and had by that time so learned to lord over his passions, that he rather thought it his duty to content himself with the effects of that machin, how unkindly soever he might take it from their hands who had been the cause of this his odd Conversion.

This *Amsterdammable Gusman* having once in his life done evil that good came of it.

mer once suddenly again with another opportunity to do himself good, which was on this wise :

Not long after this Masquerade he applies himself to an eminent Merchant of *Amsterdam*, whose chief Traffic was in the *Straits* and at *Greenland*, whither he sent every year several Ships : of this same Merchant he bought, to the value of 3600. guilders in Train and Whale-bone, besides 800. guilders in Rite, which he promised to pay upon delivery, for which purpose he repairs to the House of Mr. *vander Ha* --- the said Merchant, with a bag of money, where the Goods were delivered. *Diomedes* tender'd him the money, amounting to 4400. guilders, for which the Merchant signs an acquittance. Now *Diomedes* in the mean time had a Camrade of his by him all the time, whom he had instructed in what he was to do. Seeing now his opportunity, he calls the Merchant aside, as if he had an earnest to impart to him, where he held him up with an invented story, while the other clandestinely takes up the bags and acquittance, and steals away.

When *Diomedes* saw all effected he walks demurely back again with the Merchant into the Counting-house, where the Merchant coming sees the Money and Paper gone, began to rage and stamp like mad, not know-  
ing



ing what to do in the case, but at last calling to mind, such another prank *Diomedes* had play'd, of which some had given him an inkling, immediatly without more ado charges the matter home upon him, and tax'd him for the Thief. *Diomedes* highly incensed at the affront began to give him scurvy language, which was again retaliated; in short to high words they came, and finally *Diomedes* gave him a challenge, which *Mr. vander Ha---* refused not to answer, so to't they went, where *Diomedes*, being an experter sword-man, gave him a prick under the left pap, which he judging to be mortal, took him to his heels, and away for *Paris*, to avoid the danger that was incumbent on him.

*Mr. vander Ha----* in the mean while lies wallowing in his blood, is found by some who knew him and brought home, three Chirurgeons are immediatly sent for, who having made inspection into the wound, concluded the good Gentleman past recovery; however use their utmost diligence to cure him, and at last by their joint care and skill, brought him so far up, that he was judged past all danger.

*Diomedes* who knew no better but that his Antagonist was dead, kept himself very privatly at *Paris*, till all his money was spent for by reason of his sudden departure, he

could not take more with him than a little gold he had in his pocket. Seeing now that all his money was gone, he resolves to list himself among a company of Padders, having already got into acquaintance with a Captain of the Gang, who upon his intimation gave him free admission, with this proviso; That he should first show his proof by way of Tryal, or *examen*, which he essay'd and with good success, as you shall presently understand.

Now by reason of the unhappy circumstances he had involved himself into, he went under the name of Monsr. *de Villeneuf*, which name we purpose to make use of to denote his Worship in the sequel.

Monsr. *de Villeneuf* went into a noted Ordinary, where several of the young Nobility did customarily meet once a week, where being come, and looking like a Person of no indifferent quality, sat himself down among those Gentlemen, and being in the croud, when they first began to take their places, none took occasion to question how he came there; for besides their civility for the better convenience of the House, strangers are admitted at the Request of the Landlord, every one thought he might probably be an acquaintance of some one in the company, and therefore unwilling to put any affront upon him, not know-

knowing whose displeasure that they might incur by so doing. To come more to the matter, *Monfr. de Villeneuve*, observes, when (as the manner of that Ordinary is) the Guests gave money into a silver Charger for the use of the Poor, which went round the Table; that a Gentleman who sat at his right hand had a velvet Purse well charged with Pistols. This Purse made his Teeth to water, and like a Load-stone had such an attractive vertue that it turn'd his eye what way soever it turned its self.

When the Meal was over the Gentleman rose from Table, and took his leave of the company. *Monfr. de Villeneuve* seeing him go, posts away after him, to see if he could bring his purpose about, and accordingly closes up with him, saying; "Sir, I perceive by your discourse at Table, that you have a desire to buy two Coach-horses, There is an acquaintance of mine, who has a brace of Flanders-Mares, which if you have a mind to see I will give him notice of it, that he may wait upon you, at what time and place you are pleased to appoint. *Monfr. de Molineaux* (for that was the Gentlemans name) hearing him say so, made answer? "Sir, 'tis true, I have 4, or 5 days inquired but cannot hear of any according to my mind, and if you can bring me to sight of those two Mares, you

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"will infinitely oblige me, yet believe me,  
 "Sir, I should be loath to put you to so  
 "great a trouble; but wherein I may serve  
 "you, vouchsafe but to command and your  
 "injunction shall be obey'd. *Villeneuve* re-  
 plies that it was no more than his duty to  
 serve him, the more because his supposed  
 acquaintance had desired him to recom-  
 mend his bargain: and so pray'd him to go  
 along with him to a Cabaret hard by, pro-  
 mising to send for his friend thither. To  
 this *Molineaux* assents; where being come  
*Villeneuve* writes to his Comrades, under no-  
 tion of writing about what he had intimated  
 to *Molineaux*. After he had done he stept  
 aside to give it a Boy who was to carry it,  
 according to his directions. The sense of  
 the Letter was thus:

*I have met with a Cully, do you therefore  
 come as Officers and arrest him as a Male-  
 factor, 'tis a fat bird and for our turn, fur-  
 ther directions I need not give, Sat sapienti-  
 bus dictum puto, but what other instructions  
 shall be necessary, I judge it time enough when  
 you make your appearance. The World is  
 turn'd over the moon.*

The note was larger but abstruse: how-  
 ever so perspicuous to them as they under-  
 stood his meaning, and accordingly came;  
 one representing an Officer of Justice, the  
 rest

rest his Dogs, or Followers, So soon as they came in, they siezed the person of *Molineaux*, in présence of *Villeneuf* who made as if he had been mightily astonished at the matter, and show'd himself greatly concerned for him, desiring them not to be so uncivil as to drag a Gentleman out of the house at that rate. *Monfr. Molineaux* prays them to tell him what was the matter, and upon what account they arrested him, with all desiring them to advise the matter better together, and berthink themselves, whether he was the person, or no, that they came to look for. The Officer with a dreadful look tells him, that he, and none else, was the Person they looked for, Come, come, added he, you would pretend ignorance, would you? are not you acquainted with such and such men [naming some of an infamous gang, and himself for one] and are you ignorant of such and such a cheat? *Monfr. Molineaux* swore and protested he never was acquainted with that gang of Rogues, neither did he know any thing of those cheats. However notwithstanding all those asseverations, the Officer commanded the men to ty him fast, as they would have done, only *Villeneuf* prays them that he might have the liberry to speak a word with him apart, to which the Officer gave his consent. *Villeneuf* therefore calls

him aside and discourfes him after this manner; "Sir, I cannot enough condole your  
 "present trouble into which you are fallen,  
 "but if I can be Bail for you, I will, rather  
 "than that you should be carried through  
 "the streets, which may tend to your dishonour, well knowing (although my  
 "acquaintance with you has not been long)  
 "that you are a Person of such worth, as  
 "that you cannot but be univerfally known,  
 "only I defire to have fome fecurity for my  
 "felf, which if I fhould demand upon fuch  
 "an account I hope you will not take ill  
 "our, fince you have that by you, which  
 "will do it. Monfr. Molineaux thanks him for his great civility, withal telling him that he was content, and pray'd him to accept of the Purfe of Gold if that would fatisfy him. "Well (replies Villeneuf,) I hope  
 "that the matter will not prove fo difficult  
 "after they find it a miftake, and I queftion  
 "not on the other hand (fince the Officer  
 "knows me) but that he will accept of my  
 "Bail; and with that fteps toward him, and offered his Bail. At firft he feems to fcruple, faying, that he knew not whether he might do it or not with fafety; "But, added he,  
 "for the honour of you Monfr. Villeneuf, I  
 "am content to hazard the matter, being  
 "you feem to have knowledge of him. Villeneuf having promifed upon his parole to make  
 make

make him forth-coming, the mock-Contrab-  
ble took his leave of him and went out, lea-  
ving them two together.

When they were gone *Villeneuve* began to  
ask him, what was the matter? to whom  
the Gentleman replies, that he knew no  
more what it was than of his Deaths-day,  
but that he was sure it was a mistake.  
“If I might be sure of that, (*quoth he*) I  
“would go my self and discourse the Offi-  
“cer about it, for albeit I am satisfied as to  
“your being wrong’d, yet people you  
“know are always apter to sustain and har-  
“bour a bad opinion of any man, than a  
“good, and the whitest walls we see are the  
“loonest stain’d. To be brief, he desired  
him to stay a litle and he would go and  
speak with him, and if he did not return  
within an hour, that he should go to such a  
Cabaret in *St. Honory* street, and there in-  
quire for him, which *Monfr. Molineaux*  
promised to do. *Villeneuve* in the mean  
time, goes to his Comrades and tells them  
that at such a time, he was to bring him a  
sum of money for his security, naming  
when and where, which was the same time  
and place he thought they would find the  
Gentleman, praying them to meet him at that  
time there. This done *Villain-enough* trips  
off and went for *Reuian*, where he imbarques  
himself for *Middleburg*, having got 800. and  
od

od Pistols to bear his charges thither.

Monfr. *Molineaux* whom he had left behind beginning too late to distrust the Cheat, resolves with himself to go out and see if he could hear of *Villeneuf*, but the Landlord, seeing him offer to go forth, takes him by the shoulder and bad him pay before he went, which he was fain to do. Coming to the House where *Villeneuf* had appointed him, he inquired for him: but not hearing of him, and he now waited a good while for him, began to distrust the matter, and at last makes his mind known to the Landlady of the House; who imparted the matter to her Husband, her Husband to other Friends then in the House, who all concluded it to be a Cheat. Whilst they were busy in talking, comes the Fellow who had plaid the Officer, and five or six of the gang with him, and asked for *Villeneuf*. The Landlady knew that was the name of the Bail, and pray'd them to go up to him above stairs, which they did, but entering the Room they found that they had got a wrong Sow by the tail, and would have run out again, but the Man of the House shut to the street door, and would not suffer them; till having sent for an Officer, they were apprehended, and committed to Prison, where they remained till they received their Trial in the criminal Chamber.

The



The Ring-leader himself had both his ears cut off, and burn'd in the shoulder with a Flower de Luce. The rest only scourged a litle, except two which had been before convicted of enormous crimes in *Picardy*, were sent to *Marsailles* to tug at the Oars.

*Diomedes* now arrived at *Middleburg* durst not go for *Amsterdam* before he had heard how *Squares* went there, and whether Mr. *vander Ha...* was recovered: He therefore sent to a trusty Friend of his to inquire for him: who sent him word that the wound, though at first judged mortal, was well cured, and that there was no danger of recidivation; Upon this his *Rogueship* returns for *Amsterdam*, without fear of such courses as his Creditors which he had so balk'd would take, so soon as they had notice of his arrival, which indeed would have fallen out sour enough if it had nor just happened to be in the Vacation time; However when the Vacation was done they began to bait him like a Bear at the stake, till he was fain to make his escape, as shall be hereafter said.

After he had been a day or two in *Amsterdam*, he went to visit an old friend he had at *Haarlem*, and with one to give him a *Dum*. But hardly was he got out of the Gates, before he was espied by a Mercer, who had about three years before sold him to the value

value of 800. gild. in Silks and Tissue, which money he could never get. This Gentleman seeing *Diomedes* posted after him as fast as he could, taking two friends along with him who were well mounted, and just then upon a journey for *Flanders*, for which reason the Mercer was to convoy them a part of the way. So soon as *Diomedes* with the passage Boat arrives at *Haarlem*, the Mercer follows him to see where he would go in, and there arrested him. He now under arrest, knew not any evasion, but was fain to pay down the money which was almost the last of his Gold, which he brought with him from *Paris*. This done he was set free again, and the Mercer glad to get his money went with his company to *Leyden*, where he took his leave of them.

*Diomedes* in the mean while, goes to his Debtor, whom he found not at home, and was fain for that time to be content. But bethinking himself of a sum he had owing him at *Amersfoort*, he betakes himself thither.

Coming into a certain Village near the City he takes up his lodging there, for he having once play'd a foul Trick at *Amersfoort*, durst not venture himself in the Town, but sent a note to the Person who ought him the money, praying to speak with him. The man received his Letter,  
sent

sent him answer that he would come, as the day following he did, being come *Diomedes* prays him that he would please to pay the money: But the man who was not in a capacity to pay it, pray'd him, to have patience 14 days and he would pay him the most part of the sum. *Diomedes* seemed very unwilling, but knowing that he durst not sue him, because of the bad circumstances he was under, which, if he had made the least stir or appearance would have turn'd to mischief; and on the other hand, was sensible how cases stood at home, resolves to content himself with his promise, and spend that time in the Village. He called briskly for wine and was attended after the best manner, till his money was up. When the 14 days were expired, he sends to his Debtor at *Amersfoort* who pray'd him to stay a week longer for his money, and he would faithfully pay him all, giving him some likely and probable reasons, whence he might gather that there was some apparency of reality in the man. *Diomedes*, though sore against his will, was fain to take all in good part, for the aforesaid reasons, and when the time came about, he sends again but word was brought him that his Debtor was march'd off and had taken all his moveables with him, which so vex'd *Diomedes*, that he was ready to hang himself, that he should  
be

be so chouc'd with the man, and besides his tedious journey; to run himself into debt at his Lodging. Every time *Diomedes* rose from Table, his Landlady look'd for her money; who seeing nothing come but a few airy Castles, at last assumed the boldness to ask him when he thought to pay her. *Diomedes* told her that the next day he would receive some money for a bargain of Wine he had sold to a Vintner, and upon the receipt of that money he would pay her. She distrusting, the rather because he sent and received several Letters, to & from *Amersfoort*, contented her self with that answer. The next day, the Landlady perceiving him to deal in Wine, pray'd him to show her the way to purify Claret; *Diomedes* gives her some instructions in writing, which he protested cost himself a great deal of money in *France*. He told her besides that he had a way of making one Pipe or Vessel yield two sorts of Wine; as by example, If it be a Hogshead of white Wine that it would run both white and claret from the same Vessel, at two several Cocks, as distinct and different both in tast and colour, as if it were two sorts of Wine. The Landlady prays him to teach her that art, saying that she was a poor woman, and burthened with a charge of children, and by her late Husbands negligence brought into so much debt,

debt, as she was never able to pay. *Diomedes*, at first seem'd to scruple, saying, it was a mystery that only another besides himself in all the 17. Provinces knew: *However*, said he, I shall tell you on condition that you will swear upon your honesty never to reveal it. This she promised to do, and told him that she would reckon him the Center of her happiness ever after. *Well*, quoth *Diomedes*, Then at night we will try it, at what time you shall send your Maid of an errand, and we in the mean while will get all things in a readines. The evening being come, The Landlady sends out the Maid on a sleeveless errand, which she thought would cost her an hour or two at least; *Diomedes* provides himself with an auger to pierce the Cask, and a paper or two of Powders, which must be the Ingredients, and so calling his Landlady into the Cellar falls a boring: when he had bored one hole, he pray'd the Woman to set her thumb to it till he had bored another, which when he had done, cries out, *Good lack a day, what have I forgot? the main Ingredient I have left some where in my Chamber, which is the first that I must use,* and so pray'd the Landlady to stop the other hole so long with her other thumb which she did. *Diomedes* seeing her so hard engaged at stopping, marches softly up stairs into his Chamber, takes his Port-mantle, and

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ruminating the House finds a Bag of money which was left to the care of the Landlady by a Butcher who was come to buy Cattel at the Beast-market, and so trips off. The Landlady being thus imploy'd waited a while with patience till she grew weary, begins to cry out, *Where are you, Sir, if you stay much longer, the Maid will come.* But no answer was made, she then calls out again, a second and a third time, still receiving no answer; whereupon she began to smell a Cheat, and fain would she go to see for him but could not leave the Cask: and in this posture she was fain to stay till her Maid comes home, who wondred to see her Mistress fast to the Cask, ask'd her, what was the matter? *Pre'thee Nan says the old Woman, set your thumbs to these two holes, till I go above;* The Maid relieves the Mistress, and the Mistress runs in all hast up stairs, to see for her Guest, but entring his room, finds him not, and going into another, sees her Linnen and other Goods all on a heap together, cries out with a lamentable voice, *Theeves. Theeves, I am undon, I am robbed, I am undon, all I have in the world is stole.* The Maid hearing her say so, forgets her self and in all hast runs up also, to see, if her new Petticoat and Linnen were not stole likewise. The Woman runs up and down the House like one distracted, the more when

*of the Decay'd Merchant.* 143

when she mist the Butchers money, and the Maid, out in all hast to call in the Neighbours, who understanding the business got an able fellow or two to run after *Diomedes*, who by that time was far enough out of their reach.

About three days after *Diomedes* arrives at *Utrecht*, it being then Horse-Fair, takes up his Lodging at an eminent Inn, not far from the Cathedral Church, and met accidentally with a young Gentleman who was a Canonic, or *Dom Heer* of that Place, and come thither to receive his annual Prebend. When they sate together at supper *Diomedes* insinuated himself into his acquaintance, and at last came to sound his concerns. The next day the Gentleman prays *Diomedes* to accompany him to the Fair, and (since two heads are alwayes better then one) desired his help and judgement about a Horse. *Diomedes* to show that he was a man of breeding, could not be so uncivil as to deny him and so accordingly they went together. After they had view'd the Fair well, the *Dom-Heer*, spies one to which he took a singular liking, being both of a neat shape before and behind, and likewise an excellent ambler. The Horse he bought paying to the value of 45. pound *sterl.* for him, and ordered him to be brought to the Inn, where he lay, and returns with *Diomedes* home, where  
by

by that time he came, the Horse was brought, and set up in the stable. The next day the Gentleman asks *Diomedes* if he would break his fast with him, to which he easily assented; and when they had done, called for a reckoning, the *Dom-Heer* saddles his Gelding and makes himself ready for a journey. *Diomedes* seeing him lay on a heavy Port-mantle behind him, thought it more than a venial offence to loose such a considerable booty, told him he would bear him company part of the way, if he would please to have the patience so long till he had hired a Horse, willing rather to ride, having such a civil Gentleman for his Fellow-traveller, than to sit in the Passage-boat such fair weather among a company of old wives. The Canonic was glad to have his fellowship, & told him he would stay for him, *Diomedes* immediately goes to a Hackney stable; where he, with the recommendation of the Landlord, hires an old Jade that could hardly trail her leggs after her. This done they both mount, and so soon as they were got out of the Town, the *Dom-Heer* new-phangled of his purchase, rides out to try his Gelding, which done, he prays *Diomedes* to dismount, and try him, which he also did, and let the *Dom-Heer* ride so long on his old Hackney. *Diomedes* now mounted on the Gelding rides a good way forward,

and



and honestly returns again, and so a second time a little further, returning likewise. The Gentleman taking more delight to see another ride his Horse than himself, prays him to ride off again, which he did, and that so far that he never saw him since.

*Diomedes* after he had left his Companion and provided himself, of a good horse and money enough was resolved to take a turn up towards *Aix la Chapel* and *Cologne*, and accordingly went through *Brabant*, where he play'd some notable Pranks, one whereof was thus.

Coming into *Leuam*, he took up his lodging at the *King of Spain* (one of the best Inns in the Town) where being allighted they brought his Gelding into the stable. There happening to be at that time a Colonel who had long served under the famous *Monseigneur*; This Colonel viewing well the horse of *Diomedes*, and taking a singular fancy for him, asked him if he was willing to sell him. *Diomedes* seemed to be unwilling, saying that the *Royne* as by recommendation of a Gentleman had a great mind to see him, and therefore was not willing to part with him, unless upon very good Conditions, seeing he was sure to have his Price for him. These words made the Colonel the more eager to buy him, praying *Diomedes* to set a Price and see if they could agree. *Diomedes*

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asks,

200s, 350 Paragons. The Colonel told him that  
 was a price he thought much too high, and  
 willed him therefore to be more reasonable.  
 He prays the Colonel if he had a mind to try  
 him, he should not think that too dear, whe-  
 refore he prays the Officer to ride him out,  
 which he did. Now said Diomedes, do you  
 think the Price too high, believe me I am sorry  
 that I propounded not a higher. I make no  
 question but I shall make more money of him  
 when I come at the Campagne, Sir (replies the  
 Colonel) I am satisfied as to the Horse, but as  
 touching the Price, I think much to give so great  
 a Sum, and therefore if you are not willing to give  
 him for less I presume it will be no bargain  
 with us. Well Sir (said Diomedes) There is no  
 great harm done, you have your Money, and I  
 have my Horse; and with that bids the Officer  
 let him up, and rub him well, &c. which  
 he did. Diomedes returns with the Colonel  
 to their Inn, where after supper they agreed  
 for the Horse, the Colonel pays him 300  
 Rix-dollars in Gold for him, and was well  
 satisfied with his purchase. The next morn-  
 ing, so soon as the Gates were open, Diome-  
 des goes out to the Stable without once  
 reckoning with his hostels and demands his  
 Horse of the Officer which he had sold and  
 already received Money for. The Officer  
 neither knowing nor mistrusting any thing  
 to the contrary, but that it was his own Horse,  
 delivers

delivers him without any scruple. *Lebecque* being now furnished with Money as well as with a Horse, thought it his best way to return towards *Holland*, and accordingly taking *Machlin* by the way, posts for *Amwerp*, where coming to the *Goos Inn* upon the Market, he meets with the Marquis of P — to whom he sold his Horse for the same price, and imbarqued himself aboard the *Schuyt* for *Dort*, and so forward to *Amsterdam*, leaving the Marquis and Colonel who were near kinsmen to divide the Horse or dispute their Right.

Being now returned for *Amsterdam* he remained some time there unknown to his Creditors who longed greedily to hear of his Arrival, and for many days together ringing by night thro the Town with his Cloak muffled about his ears, he was at last discerned by a neighbour of his, whom he had formerly served a dirty trick. This Person being a Broker and thence very popular, and a man of universal acquaintance, went and signified his arrival to every one he knew to be any way interested in him, upon which notice they came every day clustering delivering him Reckonings; as also in the street, for so soon as he thought that most, or all of his Creditors had heard of his arrival he chused rather to hazard his Person abroad than to loose his accustomed Recreations

and Divertisements. Every day that the kind Heavens bestowed upon the World, was our Merchant pesterd with Duns. Now comes the Mercer, Draper, Taylor, Embroyderer, Haberdasher, then comes the Mason, Carpenter, Smith, Painter, Carver, and Glazier, another, or perhaps the same day comes the Butcher, Poulterer, Fishmonger and Baker with Bills as Woodcocks. Nay the vast expences which he had vainly thrown away in repairing his Countrey house, after his own particular fancy, did far surmount the money he purchased it for, and than it was really worth. Besides this came every day those persons which he had cheated, *Leopoldus* from the *Hague*, the Vintner of *Leyden*, the Ry-merchant, the Ship-Carpenter of *Amsterdam*, *Mordechai* the Jew, and the Wood-monger, these coming constantly to give attendance and wait upon his Knaveship, fell now and then into discourse together, and so summed up his Roguery, and some of those so concerned at his unjust dealings that they reviled him in the open street which caused a great concourse of people and sometimes the Mobite before his doors: others who were quite worn out of patience, resolved to take a speedy course, least dallying too long they might come to late, since he had so many of those *Serviteurs* every morning at his door.

It happened that some of his Creditors meeting together upon the Exchange, where they came to speak with him, agreed upon a time when they should come all together to give him a visit, amongst which was the Painter of whom he had bought 3200 gl. in Pictures, 3 Taylors, a Mercer, an Upholsterer, an Embroyderer, and others that wanted their Rent for Cellerage; these coming one day desired to speak with him; but he, as his custome was, let'em know he was not within, insomuch that they were fain to be content without effecting any thing at that time: however seeing that they could never find him at home they swore they would come every day till they received satisfaction, as accordingly they did, thronging so before the door and in the passage of his house that he could not go out, and at last forced the Fox out of his hole, where they delivered each man his accompt, and pray'd him to peruse'em.

On a certain morning came in so many of his Creditors that the entry of his house was full, which he understanding called in some of the Principle of them into a Room apart where he opened a Chest of Drawers and show'd them several Bags of Money and asked what for coin they would be paid in; they made answer, so as he pleased. Well, said he, Gentlemen be content for this

time to go away, and come to-morrow and I shall in the mean time take it into consideration. With this answer they were fain to depart; but coming the next day found him still in the same Story: For he ever let them see the Land of Promise, but would never suffer them to enter into it. These being mostly Persons of mechanical Professions could not endure any longer to be balked, but resolved to proceed against him at law, and see if that would be more effectual than Threats and Flatteries.

Soon after comes *Leopoldus* from the *Hague* who had sold him 12000 gl. in Actions, and the Ship-Carpenter who had pretence of 4666 gl. upon him, the Corn-Merchant *Jerome* to whom he was owing 69160 gl., and *Mordac* the Jew, who came in for 82000 gl. more; these all unanimously went and made their Address to the Upper-Judge, who hearing these various complaints, could not but add credit to their Demonstrations, they being Persons of that worth, and Gentlemen of honest Fame; insomuch that these Enormities made *Diomedes* so black, that the Officer of Justice could not but take notice of him as a great Criminal as well for Cheating, Forging of Writings, &c. as for Fighting and Bloodshed, with many such like abuses: Insomuch that he watched his opportunity to apprehend him and commit him

to custody having already an old claim  
against him for a delinquency already men-  
tioned. *Diomedes* beginning to smell a Rat,  
thought good to pack up his Auis and be  
gone, taking with him 10000 *gild.* in Gold  
and about 20000 *gild.* in Jewels, which he  
had to that end bought to supply himself  
in time of need: besides 18000 *gild.* in Mo-  
ney and Jewels which he hid some where  
about *Haarlem*, thinking that if he should  
prove infortunate, that might be his Friend  
in Extremity. This done he posts away  
through *Rotterdam* and so on for *Middleburg*,  
where he took up his lodging in an Inn,  
thinking there to rest a litle after a wearisome  
Journey.

He had with him only one Person to wait  
upon him, who spoke very good *English*,  
judging him as serviceable upon his inten-  
ded Journey, which was for *England*. His  
whole purpose he imparts to *Harry* (for that  
was his mans name) and what his resolution  
was: *Harry* in the mean time (having a acquaint-  
ance with *Leopold's* Page) writes to him  
and detects the whole concern; the Page  
thought it his duty to intimate the matter to  
his master, shows him the Letter. *Leopold*  
upon this notice went with all possible speed  
for *Middleburg*, where *Diomedes* lay wind-  
bound, and charges the Pretor or Baliff of  
the Town with him, who went instantly

with the *Diemaers* and seized him, being so drunk that he was not able to stand, in so much that they were fain to arrest a Fellow with a wheel-barrow to carry him along, which after they had first made him fast, they did, being guarded by hundreds of the Rabble, and an infinite Train of Boys, who were very inquisitive what the matter was that such a Gallant should be so meanly coached.

*Diomedes* all this while was not sensible whither they brought him, being so drunk that he had not the use of his senses. Thus hurried away, he was put into a Dungeon where having got a little Sleep he awaked; and not knowing any thing of the matter could not devise where he was got, for all was dark. In this amazement he began to grope here and there, where still he could feel nothing but the bare Walls, and looking about him could not see any thing, which made him doubt whether he were blind, or that it came by the vigorous effects of the Wine. At last he began to cry out, but the more he cried the worse perplexed he was, for no answer was made. Thus remaining in a quandary a thousand doubts and Imaginations possessed his mind, till at length he falls asleep again and so remained till it was day, at what time he discovered by the light of a little hole that he was for  
that



that time injoy'n'd to take Chamber-air. But all this time he could hardly persuade him self that the thing was real, but would fain impose upon his thoughts that he only dream'd; and that it was a meer Fantasy occasioned from the Threats, of those he had gull'd at *Amsterdam*. This continued for some time till at last he saw clearly there was no deception in the case, but that he was surely fast. His negligence he relented now more than his Actions, which were the occasion of this his misery, and the loss of his money vex'd him more than that of his Reputation: but seeing that Repentance was now an hour too late, and all his complaints to no purpose, he begins to hunt out for a place to make his escape by. After much seeking he espied a hole which was very high, and thwarted with massy grates, so that it was impossible for him to come out that way: he therefore began to examin his Pockets to see if he had money enough to bribe the Jaylor or Turn-key, and so that way to give them the slip, but he found they had taken away almost all the money he had about him, only the Jewels they had left him which were stich'd up in his Drawers. These he offered the Jaylor's man that brought him meat; but he considering that his place was of more consideration than the Jewels (according to all the judgement he had) and

the Penalty greater than both, he durst not hearken to him lest he should be tempted, insomuch that *Diomedes* grew desperate of ever coming out that way, and was fain to comfort himself on the best wise he could and with hopes of Mercy.

After a few days he came to Tryal, and found that his Creditors were all acquainted with his Condition, and had made instance to have him brought to *Amsterdam*, amongst whom the Head-Officer of that City principally appeared, that there he might receive his condign punishment according to the enormous feats he had committed there, and therefore most fitting there to be a public Example. *Diomedes* seeing no sufficient evidence, in Court, denies all, and was thereupon remanded back to prison till further and clearer proof could be made, by Witnesses or *Affidavits* from *Amsterdam*. Being now secured the second time, his greatest fear was that those of *Amsterdam* would prevail in their Demands, and get him thither, where he being palpably guilty of so many enormities would hardly come off with his life, or that perhaps coming to have a second hearing, cases would appear so dirty that he might for better security be clapt into shackles, and have a pair of Iron garters bestowed upon him; resolved therefore to loose no time or opportunity, nor spare

soare for pains to get out of his cage; and in order thereto sounds the Privy, which he found to his purpose, and in the dead time of the night, began to dive where he was almost smothered in Filth, and having travelled so far till he met with the common shoar could not see which way to go, nor meet with any soul to show him the way. Many Cross-pipes and conveyances he found, but either he could not find an Entry, or else the muffle too narrow to receive his body: however, the hardest Invention is acquirable, and nothing so difficult, but may be accomplished by Time, Patience and Industry. He hearing a great noise, which he perceived might be about 20 steps behind him, and making towards the place it was warm water which he presumed some had thrown down the house of Office, to purge it, and finding the pipe of a sufficient wideness, indeavoured to force himself through. After a long pinching and squeezing of his body, in he goes, and found it ever wider and wider till he got up so high that he could reach the seat, where groping to find the hole, feelled a pair of warm Buttocks, which happened to be a Gentlewoman, who was newly set. The Gentlewoman feeling, some body finger her Flesh behind, and not dreaming of our subterranean Passenger, shrieks out and ran away in all

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hast, hardly daring to look behind her.

Our Pioneer seeing the Lady in such a fright, cried out; *Madam, please to excuse me that in stead of handling your Breasts I have through a mistake seized upon your Buttricks: Neither think that I come to do you any harm, for I am an honest man, and under hopes of Privacy and Concealment am come to seek protection under your Roof, which I hope after a full hearing of my deplorable state your Ladyship will vouchsafe to grant me.*

The Gentlewoman who at first was astonished, was content to dispence with so much time as to give him a hearing, he relating almost the whole passage, how he was an eminent Merchant in *Amsterdam* and was upon his Journey for *England*, but by some malicious and ill-affected persons seized and accused of what he was never guilty, and therefore being clapt up in Prison, was fain to do what none would leave undone, that is render of his Life, and therefore hoped that the Lady would neither think it strange nor take it ill out, but rather pity his sad Condition, &c. These and many other Arguments perswaded the Lady to compassion, and to give credit to what he said, the more by reason of his rich habit and embroidered coat, which was circumstance





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cumstance enough for a Credulous woman to beleieve all he said was *real*, and not barely *verbal*. In sum the Gentlewoman lent him a shift and other cloathing to cover himself, leaving him by himself in the yard, and show'd him the Pump where he made himself clean, she in the mean time looking thro the window and seeing his well proportioned body, began to be enamoured with his Person, and had hardly the Patience to wait his coming, to examin him a litle further. After he had made clean his body, he also washed his cloaths in the best wise he could, and hung them up to dry: which done he steps into the Parlour to give the Lady thanks for the great civility she had shown him which he did with so much grace and Eloquence that the Lady resolved that night not to go to bed, but to discourse him about affairs, &c. After he had warmed him a litle she took him, and (according to the manner of the Countrey) show'd him all the house round, where she let him see much costly Furniture, besides her Plate Jewels and Cloaths: having done above stairs, she brought him below to see her Shop, which standing in the best place of the City was furnished with all sorts of rich Laces, Points, and fine Linnen, besides another shop next to it, divided from the former only by a small Partition; this was

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furnished with all sorts of Silks, flow-  
ered, striped and plain; besides many  
rich Indian Gowns, ready made, whereof  
she took one, and desired him to put on,  
lest he should get cold. Madam, replies  
he, Your courtesy is not to be paralleld, where-  
of, this is a notable instance, your Ladieships  
gracious Favours already heaped upon me denote  
the real worth of the Interior habit of your  
Mind, as well as your Angelical Countenance  
and form to evidence the completeness and per-  
fection of your external Person. But, Madam,  
it is not likely, or may it in any wise be deemed  
possible, that I should take cold, so long as I  
am within the Circle of your sun-like beauty,  
where I could be heartily content to live and dy.  
Mrs. Olympia, (for that was the Gentlewo-  
mans name) was not much behind him,  
for a Complement, but the greatest part of  
their Communication, as we have in some  
part forgot, and as it is otherwise not mat-  
terial, and consequently not necessary to our  
present purpose I shall wave. But only by  
way of abridgment, it may suffice to tell you  
that before many hours were spent they  
made an insubid vow, plighted their  
Troth together in the presence of Heaven,  
and swore a perpetual fidelity and constancy  
of mind. This rash promise they ratified by  
many kisses and mutual embraces of each  
other, she thinking her self at worst to have  
a per-



a personable man, whether all other appendencies were as he had represented them, or no; and he on the other hand in hope of bettering his Estate, by imbarquing himself on a firm-buile bottom and substantial shop-keeper as appeared by what he had already seen. *Diomedes* seeing her so fast linked to him, as well by that irrevocable and inviolable ingagement which they had reciprocally counterchanged, as also by the great inclination he could observe she had towards his Person, thought it best by degrees to detect the naked truth to her, rather than concealit any longer.

He began first to relate a mixed story of Truth and Lies, as my Grandmother used to give me a medicine against worms, which of its self, was bitter, she was wont to sweeten the Cup about the edges with honey, or temper it with sugar to make it more palatable. First he tells her how that of his kind nature he had been surety for some of his Relations, and upon their Failing he was fain to pay their Debts; and at such and such times he had losses by sea, & bad Debtors, in-  
 fomuch that he had been frequently in Extre-  
 mities, which had compelled him to do some  
 things which his good Conscience would  
 not dispence with, and in sum he had paid  
 15. times his real Estate upon such unfor-  
 tunate Occasions, and was at that instant  
 Debtor

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Debtor in 260000 *gild.* and had on the contrary Credit 220000 *gild.* which he did not doubt but one Adventure or two would make good, and assopiate the differences which lay between him & injured Persons.

This candid Confession did not in the least startle the constant *Olympia*, who had rather disburse a greater sum, than to break squares with him, who had already insinuated himself so far into her Brest that for better or worse she was relolved to imbarque herself with him into what Ease or Trouble the Fates should involve him in, and promised him to make good his Accounts, in case he would deliver the remnant of his Capital into her hand. To this *Diomedes* freely assents, and so the Troth was mutually sealed and confirmed on both sides with many Expressions and Protestations of stability.

The day approaching, our *Terne filius*, having regard to his security consulted with his new Mistress, what course was to be taken for the point of Safety: and in sum it was thought advisable to be jogging before break of day to a place, which she had appointed him, and to commit his affairs into the hand of some trusty Solicitor, or other, who might make the streets passable for his Worship.

The next morning being come, the Jaylor opens the Prison door misses *Diomedes*, which

start.

startled him so that he was ready to kill himself, or the first person that came nigh him; yet bethinking that it was a vanity to lay violent hands upon himself, he imparted the matter to his wife, who presses upon him to acquaint the Officers of Justice with the whole Affair, and at last perswaded him to do it, upon which a scrutiny was made, and Messengers sent abroad with a *Pouvoir* to apprehend him, if within the Jurisdiction of the Province of *Zeeland*; But when he could not be heard of, the Committee for criminal affairs had a debate among themselves the Result whereof was, That the Jaylor himself should be shut up and secured, in his place, suspecting that he had been bribed or corrupted by money, or fair Promises, since it could not be made appear that he had broke any way out, the Walls, Doors, Windows, Roof and Floor being all firm, without any breach: and on this wise continued the innocent Jailour, till a Person nominated by *Diomedes*, appeared and offered full payment to all his Creditors, who rested satisfied; only the *Schout* of *Amsterdam*, who made a large Demand, upon the criminal score; however was in process of time satisfied with a handsom sum of money, and gave *Diomedes* liberty to appear abroad, and negotiate his affairs wheresoever his concerns then lay.

After

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After they had been a while married Diomedes began to press hard upon her to get her to remove for *Amsterdam*, which she for her own part was very inclinable to, but as Old women are no more willing to leave the Place they have lived in all their life time, than they are willing to leave the World; so her mother *Livia* was as far from consenting to leave *Middleburg*, as she was free to their wedding. But however she was forced to yield to their humour, and assent to their marriage though sore against her Will, since the greatest part of *Olympia's* Estate came to her by a former husband, who bequeathed her 80000 gild. by Testament, dying but 10 daies after the Marriage and about 6 moneths before she married with our Merchant. Thus breaking up at *Middleburg* she removes shop, Goods, and all to *Amsterdam*. Her mother also followed, and hired a house not far from her son in Law, thinking to comfort her self the remainder of her Life with the Company of her only Daughter.

That which is bred in the bone will never out of the Flesh, a Tree that grows crooked when young cannot be bent when it grows old and sturdy. Diomedes who was so addicted to base and indirect dealings and an irregular course of Trade from the very Cradle could not forget his old Customs and inclinations, no more than *Aesop's* Cat, which was by

*Venus*

*Venus* transformed into a beautifull Lady, but being married and on her Nuptial Bed with her Bridegroom about a delightful Exercise, accidentally spies a Mouse run over the Floor, immediately jumps out of the Bed, and after the mouse; at which *Venus* was so enraged that she transformed her into her former shape again; The sequel of my story may supply the place of a Moral. *Dionides* not content with such a fair Condition, and a well settled state having at once cleared himself almost of all claims against him, got a good Estate and Married with a fair and vertuous Gentlewoman: but finding him in a new way of Trade begins to try practises that way, and makes false measures, a true and a false yard, the true to show upon examination, and the false for dayly use in the shop. This way dured not very long, for his new Customers soon found out his base doings and consequently went elsewhere to market, which he perceiving took the matter into consideration, and resolved to try some other way before it was too late, and in order thereto, insinuates himself into the favour of the Factors of the East and West India Companies; and that so far that he had their Custome for goods, and the opportunity to deliver a considerable quantity of Linnen, and withall received a round sum of money from both the Companies.

Not

Not long after came those two Gentlemen that had been security at *Rotterdam* for his Countrey house, desiring either that he would pay the remainder, or quit them of their Engagement. *Olympia* who knew nothing to the contrary but that all was paid, and now hearing those unwelcome Tidings was mainly altered, having already paid so much money for him, upon so many occasions. *Diomedes*, not willing to suffer any affront or shame for so small a sum, promised to follow them in a day or two, and so to pay them in full, with which they being satisfied for that time, took their leaves of him. Within 3 days *Diomedes* sets forward on his Journey, and in the Passage-boat between *Amsterdam* and *Haarlem* meets with a young Gentlewoman with whom he made Acquaintance, and after a litle discourse began to be very free with her, and inquisitive about her dwelling and Condition, and whether she was Maid, Wife, or Widdow, to which she answered that she was unmarried and never had a husband, and that her Residence was at *Haarlem*, altho shortly after she casually dropped out that her husband had lay 3 years sick of a Quartan Ague: From which Contradiction *Diomedes* observed that she was a Gamester, and consequently offer'd his service, which without many Ceremonies she accepted. When they

they were come to *Haarlem*, she brought him into a noted Inn in that Town, whence he concluded that she had no fast dwelling there. This being before noon Diomedes bespeaks a dinner where he treated his Miss very splendidly, having before hand concluded to pass for man and wife. After dinner they took a walk into the Woods, where they spent the Afternoon, and in the Evening return to *Haarlem*. After supper he asked the Landlord if their Bed was ready; answer was made, Yes, first asking them if they were man and wife, or that they must have two several Chambers, they both answered that they needed but one. The fore part of the night they spent in amorous delights; but towards the morning Diomedes falls fast asleep, which she observing, rose up very softly, and cuts off the Plate buttons of his coat, goes softly down stairs and prays the Landlord to show her an Apothecary, pretending her husband was very sick and had not slept all the night. Madam, said the Landlord, If you have any occasion at the Apothecaries I shall send my Maid. The Gentlewoman made answer that she only wanted a little *Diatadum* or *Opium* to provoke sleep, and withall told the Landlord that her husband was sometimes troubled with a Frenzy or a lightness in the head, and was used at such times to talk idly, and she

was

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was afraid that he would have one of his Fits if he should not get a little rest.

The Landlord sends the Maid with these directions who quickly returns. The Gentlewoman upon that goes softly up stairs, as if she would give it him in, and finding him still fast asleep, did not tarry any longer above than to take away suspicion of the matter. Coming down stairs prays the Landlord that if they had any business above stairs in any other Room, to make as little noise as they could, and with one desires him to deliver her the money her husband had give him to lock up, for that she must go and pay it that morning according to promise. The Landlord not in the least suspecting any thing, freely gave it her. She now having got so rich a Booty marches off, and was never heard of since.

About 11 a clock *Diomedes* awakes and missing his Darling was afraid of what he afterwards to his sorrow found true. So soon as the Landlord hears him awake, he goes up and opens the door very softly, and sees *Diomedes* in a raging fit, looking upon his Coat, which was bereaved of Buttons. The Landlord asks him, how he did? and how he had rested that night? *Never the better for you, you Rascal.* (replies he) *What is the meaning of this? See here:* and with that shows him the Coat. The Landlady hearing him stamp and make a noise, ran up stairs, asks her hus-



husband, what was the matter? *Why* Poor man I  
 said he, he has been a pulling off the Buttons from  
 his Coat. you may see what a sad thing it is for a  
 man to be deprived of his senses. You Dog,  
 replies Diomedes, D'ee take me for a Mad  
 man? O pray Sir, saies the host, have Pati-  
 ence, and take a little rest, I hope it will shortly  
 grower. What a pox d'ee mean? says Diomedes,  
 what do you take me for drunk or mad. Now,  
 quoth the Landlord, 'Tis the Physic, Sir,  
 that works in your head 'twill quickly go over.  
 Work me no Working saies he, you rogue, who  
 has stole my Buttons? and with that reaches  
 for his sword, which the Landlord seeing ran  
 out of the Room as fast as he could drive,  
 slips to the door after him, and down stairs  
 after his wife but she not so quick as her hus-  
 band, down she tumbles and he upon her,  
 and with the fall put her Arm out of joynt.  
 The Landlord thus perplexed was almost be-  
 sides himself, and the Woman not a whit  
 better. After he had gathered his senses to-  
 gether again, he bethought himself to send  
 for a Bone-setter for his wife, in the first  
 place, fearing her arm was really broke,  
 and in the next place to send for 2 or 3 stout-  
 hearted men to enter the Room where Diome-  
 des lay all the while a thundring and pelting  
 the stools about the Chamber. When the  
 Champions were come together the Land-  
 lord up and told them all the story; "How  
 " that

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" that a Gentleman and his Lady was come  
 " there the night before, and that the Gentle-  
 " woman her self was gone out to pay some  
 " moneys in the Town, and had left him  
 " there, being possessed with a Frenzy which  
 " he was troubled with at certain times of  
 " Moon, &c. and that he had therefore  
 " sent to desire their help and advice. After  
 the Consult was ended they went up with  
 joynt courage to visit this *Bedlamite*, where  
 opening the Door found him not, for he  
 had jump'd out at a Window; which they  
 seeing open, gathered thence that he was  
 gone out at a back-street, so that they made  
 no great search for him, but coming down  
 stairs, they meet *Diomedes* coming in with  
 the Substitute *Schout*, [ or Constable ] who  
 immediatly tax'd the Landlord with very  
 grievous Crimes, which being debated pro  
 & contra they began to understand each other  
 better than they did before. *Diomedes* impa-  
 tient of this tedious dispute, demands the  
 money he have him to lay up: *Why*, re-  
 plies the Landlord, *Your Wife has taken it*  
*with her and is gone to pay it. Hey day!* cries  
*Diomedes*, *what, never worse and worse.*  
*The Woman I never see with my eyes before,*  
*it is none of my wife. That is no fault of mine,*  
 quoth the Landlord, *you did not only tell me*  
*she was your Wife, but lay with her, and upon*  
*that score I must justify my self, she has the*  
 Money.

Money. This enraged *Diomedes* worse than before : but the Officer hearing of their lying together, would have seized his person suspecting that he was a married man (which Justice takes more notice of than otherwise) and *Diomedes* fearing that if he dallied there long, that he might be secured till he should evidence the Contrary, which he could not do, and so bring himself into public shame, besides a round some of money at best, to satisfy Justice, which would but be Loss upon Loss; he therefore to prove the worst steals softly out, under colour as if he would go seek for his Darling. And betakes himself in all hast for *Amsterdam*, thinking one time or another to revenge this injury.

*Olympia* seeing her blessed Jewel come in such a fashion home, without ever a button on his coat, or his sword, which he was fain to pawn by the way to bear his expences, was not a litle altered: but he to palliate the truth of the matter (as his old custom was) told her that missing the Boat between *Haarlem* and *Leyden*, he was fain to go afoot, where comming at the Downs he was assailed by 3 or 4 *Russians* all mask'd, who immediatly clapt a pistol to his brest and bad him deliver, which he to save his life was fain to do, nor yet were they contented so, but must disarm him, and cut the buttons off his

H

Coat.

Coat. *Olympia* was not easily induced to beleieve this his story, but after a litle chiding with him was forced to put all up in good part.

*Diomedes* was not willing to leave the matter, so but urges her anew, to give him 6000 gild. more, which she would in no wise consent to, till by his continual Importunateness he had almost harassed her out of her life, that she was fain to give it him, upon promise of being a better husband.

Having got the money he departs for *Rotterdam*, & there arriving he paid the sum. and returns back again for *Amsterdam*, where he was as welcom as Quarter-day to a Tenant that has no money to pay his Landlord: For so soon as he arrived he found *Olympia* very pensiv and melancholic, that she would not give him a word; which he observing thought some way or other, to remedy the matter, by making of one good bargain or other.

But amidst all these hopes he received Letters from *Spain* that the Ship which he had sent out upon a hopefull voyage was cast away on the heighth of *Cabo Verdo*, which news reduced him to despair, insomuch that he continually ran from one Tavern to another, and mispent his time, that with an incessant consumption of money made his wife in a worse humor than before.

It happened not long after that he met with an expert Gamester at Backgammon who allured him to play a Game with him to pass away the time. *Diomedes* who in his days had now and then shaken his arm, was easily moved to it; so to't they went; where from Shillings they proceeded to Ducatoons; and from Ducatoons to Ducats, *Diomedes* in the mean time holding the board eaven with his Antagonist, which was done by subtilty to make *Diomedes* the more easily induced to venture upon greater sums. At last it came up to 25 gild. (or 50 sh.) a throw, so that *Diomedes* came off at night with 1300 gild. loss. And being willing to go home, his Party takes him by the shoulder and would not let him stirr out of the place till he had given him a Bond under his hand, whereby he acknowled himself to be indebted so much money to his Party, and thereby firmly binding himself to pay it upon demand. *Diomedes* was at first very loath to set his hand to paper, but seeing no remedy he was forced to it.

The next morning betimes came the Gentleman and demanded his Money of *Diomedes*, before his wife was stirring; upon which *Diomedes* went privately and stole away the Keys, *Olympia* not once perceiving, for she was fast asleep, not having slept the whole night by reason of her husbands

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staying late out; for whom she was in continual fear, knowing him to be of a rash and resolute temper when he had drunk a little more than ordinary. Having now got the Keys he took out a bag of moneys very clandestinely, pays his Creditor and lays the Keys where he took them.

When *Olympia* had occasion for some moneys went up into her Chest and found a great hole in the Cash, falls aboard her husband and called him a thousand Rogues, which he by all the means he could indeavoured to extenuate, but all to no purpose for he had not the art to tame a Shrew. All the ways he could possibly think upon he made use of to pacifie, and flattered her with promises of Amendment, and I know not what. Still *Olympia* rails and curses the day that ever she saw him, wishing she had been in her Coffin when she sat upon the house of Office, or that Death had seized upon her Heart, when he seized upon her Breach, &c. Thus she continued for many days together in this fume, and would not go to bed with him, no, nor eat in his presence. Long dured this feud between them altho he for his part did all he could to compose the Difference, which in process of time he accomplished.

The money being now brought to the utmost he began to solicit for more, which he would

would raise by exposing some Linnen to public sale, which converted into money, he told her he had a conceit in his head to put them well in stock again; *Olympia* was not so rash of beleeif as he had hopes she would be, before he made the overture and moved the matter; well knowing it was by no laudable, but some dishonourable practise.

Day by day he wrought upon her, till he made her weary almost of life, and was at last forced to give her Consent: which having obtained, he went to the Public Saleman [or Out-crier] and delivers him the Goods.

As soon as he had got the moneys, he went to a Merchant who dealt in Linnens by Whole-sale, and told him, that whereas he had bought several Pieces of him, and not paid for the same, he was come to pay off the Accompt, according to his Duty, Sir, replies the Merchant, *I know nothing of the matter, pray what is your name? I shall see in my Journal.* My name, said he, is *D. de Lebecnea*, you will find it about 16 or 18 moneths ago, for to the best of my remembrance it must be then about. The Merchant turns over his Books but finds no such name and told him he beleev'd it must be a mistake. *Diomedes* assures him that it was no mistake, for he could be positive as to the Goods re-

ceived, and the sum, but not to the time, for he had only noted it negligently in his pocket book without any certain date. Still the merchant declines it, and declared how unwilling he was to receive moneys which he doubted whether it belonged to him or no, and that it might probably be some other person, and that the mistake might ly there. *Diomedes* assures him on the contrary, saying that certainly he was the man. Many Arguments were used on both sides, and at last it was brought to this conclusion, that they should cast a lot, and so end the Difference that way; which they did, and it fell upon *Diomedes* to pay the money, upon which he told him 160 *gild.* Which he said was the sum, this being don, the Old Merchant invites *Diomedes* to a glass of Wine. When they were grown a litle merry, they struck a bargain for 6090 *gild.* in Linnen, whereof he was to tender 1000 *gild.* in ready money, and the remainder in 3 monerhs, with which the old Gentleman was well satisfied, not in the least distrusting any guile in his new Customer, for that he had already shown himself a well meaning just man. *Diomedes* having got the Linnen, brought it home and furnished his shop in better manner than it ever had been before.

*Olympia* seeing all these Goods brought home was more possessed with fear than joy  
su-



suspecting it was brought about by some unjust mean or other, and would at last prove a bitter bargain. Often times she endeavour'd to understand from him whence it came and upon what conditions he had bought it, which nevertheless he would not let her know. However she never desisted to admonish him of leaving off his unjust courses, withall telling him what would be the end of it: but all to little purpose, for he was deaf on that ear: and as Guil and sinister dealings seldom ever make a man really happy, so it rendred him very unfortunate, as will appear in these following Relations.

It happened not long after that *Diomedes* met with a person that every way suited his drift and humor who was likewise a Blade of Fortune. This Gentleman desirous to show *Diomedes* a trick went into North-Holland, where he hired a Lighter, to go for *Amsterdam*, and arriving there he applies himself to *Diomedes* desiring to buy some Linnen, and pretended he came expressly upon that account from *Hoorn*, and in case he would use him kindly in what he had occasion for, he would be a constant Customer to him. *Diomedes* thereupon promises he would deal fairly with him, and afford him as good or better Penny-worths than any Linnen-Draper in the City, upon which

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he show'd him several sorts of Linnen and rich Silks. In sum he made a bargain with him for several pieces, which he pray'd him that he would help him to Ship, which *Diomedes* did, *Herman* (for that was the Customers name) having given him a Glas of Wine, or two, at last prevails with him to go down with him to *Hoorn* where he would pay him the Money, and crave his Assistance in disposing and ordering of the Shop. *Diomedes* not willing to disoblige such a hopefull Customer, went with him, not distrusting his honesty in the least.

So soon as they were arrived at *Hoorn*, *Diomedes* steps with him out of the Lighter supposing he would bring him to his house and with one pay him his Money. After they had gone through several streets *Harman* brings him into an empty house which he had taken for a year only to that end and purpose. The house was without any furniture than only a stool or two, an old Table and a few planks. Entering the house they were welcomed by a Person who was privy to the matter, whom *Diomedes* supposed to be his Brother. *Diomedes* is desired to sit down and a Glas of Wine is brought forth, which after they had drunk twice or thrice round to the success of the business, the new customer and his supposed brother dropped out one after another and leaving

*Di-*

*Diomedes* to keep himself company, mad, all the hast they could to get the *Lighter* which having got, they set sail, & with a stiff gale presently got out of sight.

*Diomedes* all this time waits for his Customers, but having sitten above half an hour, and finding they did not come he began to mistrust some Knavery, and on a sudden runs up stairs and into every Room in the house, where he saw no body. After he had ruminated the whole house through, he went in all hast to the Haven where the *Lighter* came on, which by reason of the many cross streets and by-lanes they led him thro, he had much ado to find: but coming at the very Place he found the *Lighter* was gone; upon which in all hast he returns back again to the house and enquires of the Neighbours whose it was, and what his name was that had taken it, the first they told him, but for the last they could not inform him, for that it was a stranger. At this *Diomedes* was startled, and in all hast runs to the Landlord, and asks him, Where the Person lived that had taken his house. The Landlord replied that he knew him not, for he had never seen him before, whence *Diomedes* gathered that he was deceived.

He gave order to apprehend such a Person, if he should be seen or appear there any more,

and that notice should be sent him, and upon that returns for *Amsterdam*.

As soon as he was arrived at home and told his Wife the horrible Cheat that was put upon him she flew into a hot Passion, and complemented him on this wife. *Thou Monster of mankind, lying and abominable Varlet, whose drift and sole delight is pure Villany, Cheating and Lies. Unreasonable Man! Abominable Rascal and Plague of Women! How sad and fatal was the hour wherein I first saw thee, and the day unlucky which joyned us so near together. Had the unkind stars which influenced me to this, hurried me a thousand miles into the Earth, or by Lightning consumed me to Ashes, then had I been at rest and free from those horrid and plaguy Vexations which thou dost every day afresh inflict upon me by thy wilful, rash and cursed Actions. Inhuman wretch thou art, how can Heaven suffer thy accursed self to breath and live thus Vengeance free. All I have reserved to support me in approaching age (if not prevented with grief) thou throwest away upon thy lusts, and yet criest thou, Have patience, be Content? These and many other raving expressions she sent out, which Diomedes (although sensible that she had reason enough) could not brook: but opposed her, and told her that it was not a Sham as she took it to be, but if she would either go, or write to *Hoorn*, she would be satisfied about*

about it. But all he could persuade or do, would not move her so much as to take any notice of his words: insomuch that he was fain to be patient against his will to hear those Thunder-claps; which continued so long that he resolved to take some enterprise or other in hand to put himself yet once more into stock.

He sends an old Woman of his acquaintance to a Salesman to buy up a Quakers Suit, with a plain hat, having a small silk Line about it; &c. provides himself also with a little Collar-band, with Gloves, Shoes, Stockings and all things else suitable. In this Garb he dresses himself, when *Olympia* coming into the Chamber and sees him in such a habit was ready to cry out, *Theeves!*

At night he went down to the Passage-boat for *Rotterdam*, where he met with good company, all looking upon him as a Quaker, or an Anabaptist, and according to his demeanor simple and upright, he knowing so well how to manage the matter that he was universally taken for what he counterfeited. He was very observant in his reasoning to use no barbarous nor superfluous words, but on the contrary reproved those that did. In the next place he plays the Satyrist against modish Habits, being not onely Pride but Idolatry, whereby every one endeavours to outvy another, and that only for honours-

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Take bringing in many instances of Holy Writ for the same; as particularly that of *Herod*, who gloried so much in the Pomp and statelines of his Throne in the Eloquence of his Harangue, that he refused not Divine honour, &c.

After he had done with the Vanity of Ornaments and the Mode-sick Rout, he began to reprehend the Covetous Generation, laying out the sad and lamentable effects of Avarice, and the many temptations that they were under who were addicted to that sin; as Deceit, Hatred, Strife, Envy, Theft, War and Murther, from this he proceeds to Humility and Contentment the two contrary Vertues which he painted in their own Colours; and in sum pursued the matter so fairly, that every one looked upon him as very strict in his way and Profession, especially a company of old Wives, who flocked about him as Wasps about a honey-pot. Thus rambling from Vertues to Vice, and from Vice to Vertues, he purchased to himself a good esteem of all the Company: and now understanding that they were not far from *Rotterdam* he proceeded to the praise and dispraise of several Callings and Functions according as they were laudable or discommendable in themselves, & at last began to treat about Merchandise, which he preferred above all other Vocations which

which the Sons of Men use, provided it be carried on and managed with upright and square dealing: and by some by-words signified as much as that it was his proper calling.

A Merchant then in the Boat that sat directly over against him, asked him, In what Commodity he chiefly dealt in, he made answer, In Linnen and in Grain. The Gentleman upon that recommended him to a Friend of his at Rotterdam, who had a good quantity of Grain which by reason it was, as times stood then, very doubtfull which way the market would turn, whether rise or fall he might probably meet with a good Bargain. This proposal suited well with *Diomedes*, and being arrived at Rotterdam went with him to the other Merchants house, who had about 80 Last (or 160 Tun) in his Garners, which he set at 170 gild the Last, amounting to about 136000 gild. in all, which *Diomedes* objected against, saying it was too high, and prayed him to set a lower price with one word, retaining to himself a competent Gain. The Merchant swore he could not let it go for less. *Sus! Sus!* (quoth *Diomedes*) swear not, I will beleieve you the rather by Yea and Nay, than by an Oath: but, added he, since you have declared by Oath that you cannot do it for less, I will rather take it, than that you should violate your Affeuerations. In short *Diomedes* bought the Bargain and

went to his Lodging where having stay'd 2 or 3 hours he returns back again to the Merchants house, with I know not what excuse, prays him that he would be so kind as to let his Cashier go along with him to *Sardam*, to receive the Money pretending to live there. The Merchant gives his consent and making himself ready by that time the Grain was shipped, and the Vessel ready to set sail, he received a letter from a Camrade of *Diomedes*, who was made privy to the matter, and therefore came a day before *Diomedes* to *Rotterdam*. The Contents thereof was after this manner.

SIR;

**U**Nderstanding you have met with a good Customer for your Grain, being a Person with whose Father I have formerly dealt; I presume to request the favour of you that you would please to take the pains and come to the Sea-horse, that I may show him some I have, which to do you will oblige him, who is,

SIR,

Your Obedient Servt.  
*Albert van Aken.*

The Merchant having received this Letter



of the Decay'd Merchant. 183

ter shows it to *Diomedes* who seemed as if he were glad at the news and therefore prayd *Arond* (for that was the Merchants name) to go with him a litle. *Arond*, replies that he knew not the Person: *How*, quoth *Diomedes*, do you not know him, and he knows you so well? Come, I shall find him very well. Upon this *Arond* goes with him, both following the Messenger that brought the Letter, where instead of going to the Garner, he led them out of the Town to a Tavern, notedly infamous; for that the Man himself was a notorious Rogue, the Wife a Whore, and the Daughter one that had been several times publickly whipt upon the Scaffold. The Master of the house was before hand bribed to be assistant under some golden promises, and immediatly called out, *A Rogue, A Rogue*, and with that bolts the Door fast. Immediatly upon this sudden outcry, *Diomedes* rushes in, who had all this time held himself so sincere and Pious, taking a rope, ties him hand and foot, and put a Gag between his teeth, which done they drew the door to, and left him upon the floor neither able to cry out nor move. *Diomedes* in the mean while whispers the Messenger in the Ear, that he should acquaint the Shipmaster how that they intended to go through Land to *Sardam*, and that he should not neglect to fall down with the Tide, having a very fair wind

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wind and good weather, The man runs away and dispatches his errand; *Diomedes* also follows him accompanied with the Maid or Daughter, who had order from her Father to go down with *Diomedes* (for they had promised that the host should have a share in the Purchase) *Diomedes* seeing himself accompanied with the Wench had no great liking to it; and thereupon pretends to have forgot something in the Town, desires the Maid go on softly and he would overtake her, going in the mean time through another street and was brought aboard the Vessel which had just set sail, and told the Master that he had altered his resolution and left his Affairs to *Monfr. Arond* to direct in his absence, and that *Arond* would come over Land. Thus having a brisk Gale they fell down with the Tide and came in a short time to *Sardam*, where he took out the Grain into Lighters, and so away for *Freezland* where he reshipped it again for *Amsterdam*, and there by the help of a Broker met with a speedy market; and received 11293 guld. for the whole purchase, the Goods being very much damnified by Leckage, &c. and the Price mightily fallen.

*Olympia* seeing *Diomedes* bring home so much money was in a great perplexity, for she doubted that he had not got it by fair means the more because that when he went from

from home he had disguised himself, however thinking that he had imployed her Money which she had given him at several times in some secret Merchandise, she took courage, receives the Money into her Custody, and after disposes of a great part of it in Linnen, Silks &c. wherewith she furnishes her Shop.

Shortly after this enterprize *Olympia* fell very sick and died, leaving *Diomedes* sole heir of all she had in the World. *Livia* the Mother observing that *Diomedes*, since the death of his wife took no more notice of her, notwithstanding the great Friendship he seem'd to manifest towards her, during the life of her Daughter, which now she found to be no more than a parasitical trick to cully his wife, and to trust the more to his benignity, if she bequeathed all to him upon her death. She resolves therefore upon a project to make her have more respect from him than with plain dealing she was likely to acquire, well knowing his ingratitude was like that of an Asses foal, when it has sucked so long till it be full, turns about and kicks the Dam.

Every day she caressed *Diomedes* till she saw him well inclined to continue friendship and for a mean sum makes an agreement with him for her boarding in his house, which being mutually agreed upon on both sides she

she brought in a great Iron money-chest fill'd with stones and other ponderous materials, which he supposed to be Money, and knowing her to be old and decrepit, that she was not likely to live long, and that by making much of her he might be once Master of that Treasure.

So soon as she perceived that *Diomedes* was blinded with hopes of Inheritance, she made a motion, as if she would leave him and go elsewhere to be boarded, unless *Diomedes* would renew the Covenant, which should be thus, That he during the time of her life should give her free Lodging, Diet and other necessaries so long as she lived, and after the expiration of her Life to inherit her Estate and Moneys. *Diomedes*, not willing to let her go now in her old days, thinking that the Term of her Life according to the course of Nature could not be, very long; consents to what she proposed, and accordingly a Will was drawn, the Tenure whereof was, That *Diomedes* should solely inherit all her goods whether moveable, or unmoveable, Gold, Silver, in Coin or Plate, Jewels, Moveables and Utensils, and in short all that upon her Death she could properly vendicate or claim as her own. To which was annexed the before mentioned Conditions as that she should during the Term of her Life have all necessaries provided her requi-

requisite to the sustenance of human bodies, or upon default of that, or full performance, that then the said Will should be void and of no effect. This Contract being signed *Diomedes* on his part neglected not to caress her with what he could possibly imagin would please her, yet left not his old course of Life, to wit, Drinking, Whoring, Gaming and Cheating; which now he could do with more freedom than when the good *Olympia* was alive.

By some acquaintance or other, he had understood that there was a Convent of *French Dames*, who had prostituted themselves for Money, where being once introduced by his said acquaintance, he took the occasion afterwards to go all alone, and having pitch'd upon 2 which he took most fancy for, he got them into a Room apart, where he treated them with whatsoever they had a mind to.

Within an hour after comes in one *Monfr. Melletier* a *German* by birth, and sometime under a Public Character at the Court of *Sweden*, from a potent Prince of the Empire, till by a negligent management of his Masters affairs he was called home, disgraced and detrudd out of service. This Gentleman having two Ladies with him, desired of *Diomedes*, that he might sit in his Company, to which *Diomedes* very easily assented.

Being

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Being thus admitted, they were very merry till night, which when come they concluded to go to bed, 3 and 3 in a Room as they came in together. When *Diomedes* was got above he presented his service to his Mistresses to undress them, but they absolutely refused to do it, saying they could do the turn themselves very well.

When they were all unharnessed and in bed together *Diomedes* presently found himself in a mistake, for instead of having entertained two Ladies, all the day at Table, he found he had treated a couple of beardless Young-men, upon which he was so surprized that he jump'd out of Bed, but one of them held him fast and pray'd him not to be dismay'd since there was no great harm done save that he had miss'd of his expectation, which he might suppose to be only a dream. In short they fell into Dialogues with him, and expressed themselves so plain, that he presently understood of what gang they were, and at last concluded together to cozen or rob an eminent Mercer, and to consult a mean by the next morning how to circumvent the Party pitch'd upon, and upon that resolution they left off discourse, leaving each other to their repose. *Melletier* who was in another chamber had a different chance from *Diomedes*, for both those with whom he bedded were females, who show'd him

him pastime enough till at last falling asleep, two or three lusty fellows came up stairs and immediately clapt a great ball into his mouth, tied him hand and foot very fast and put him in a great Basket, which they made fast with a Padlock, being naked and so hard pack'd up and bound that he could not move or stir, and his mouth so close, that he could not cry out, or hardly draw his breath, but hearing that he breathed too strong through the nostrils they unlocked the Basket and stitch'd 'em up, which being done and the Basket made fast again, they took his Cloaths, Money, Watch, Rapier, &c. and went their way.

The next morning *Lebechea* awakens and calls to the two Mock-Ladies telling them a project he had in his head which he thought might be well effected, which was; That they should first lay out some moneys in Silks at the Mercers shop, and afterwards bring in a chest in which should be a man, who by an artificial lock could open it on the in-side, and yet that it should be firm without, and all under a pretence of some Goods. This liked them very well they therefore resolved to do with him as the Tyrant *Phalaris* did with *Perillus*, put him in and make him the proof of his own stratagem. *Diomedes* was very unwilling and loath to take it upon

upon him but was at last perswaded to ride the Trojan Horse, and accordingly was laid upon Cushions for softness sake, that his long lying there might not prove uneasy.

*Vander Dussen* and *Berne*, (for so were the names of the masked parties; went directly to the Mercers, where they looked out several Pieces of Silk, and pretended that they lived at *Haarlem*. In short they bought to the value of about 730 *Gild.* in Silks, which they immediately tendered; and packt up the Goods in a chest, just such another as they had put *Diomedes* in, and against the evening got a Porter to carry it away to their Lodging on a Wheelbarrow, where coming they took out the Goods and sent *Diomedes* away in the Chest with another Porter, who knew nothing of the former. *Vander Dussen* goes before and prays the Mercier that he would please to have the Goodnes for to set up the Chest in his house, till the next morning, they having come too late to the Boat. The Mercier suspecting no ill, gave them house-room for the said Chest, not willing to deny them so poor a Courtesy, for the money they had already bestowed in his shop, and in hopes of future Custome. The Mercier bids his servant to help the Porter in with the Chest and set it behind the Door, which

was



of the Decay'd Merchant. 191

was done, and *Vander Dussen* takes his leave of the Mercer and went to his companion *Berne*, who came with him about 10 a clock at night, at what time *Diomedes* had promised to come out of the Chest and unbolt the doors, as he did precisely at that hour, they coming also to assist him took all the richest Goods out of the Shop and carried them away to 2. Boats they had hired; which done they drew to the Door softly and packt up the Goods in one of the Boats which was so full that they could hardly fit all three, and because *Vander Dussen* and *Berne* were not well skilled at rowing, they let *Diomedes* row the Boat, which was laden, and themselves sate in that which was empty. By that time they had got to the Newbridge the Sluces and Waterbarrs were open, so that they got easily out to the stream, this being just by break of Day, and few or none appearing upon the Y, but growing more clear they espied a Boat at a pretty distance which seemed to make towards them, which *Diomedes* would perswade them was the *Schout*, and therefore pray'd them to change Oars with him seeing his were not so good as theirs, and his Boat very deep laden. They reached him theirs but in stead of delivering his, he thrust them into the Goods, and row'd away, leaving them to the favour of the wind and Tide, to drive which way they would; in

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in sum *Diomedes* got quickly out of sight, and so away for *North-Holland* where he got a *Lighter* and put them aboard bringing them up to *Amsterdam* again, where he soon got a private Customer that took them off his hands: and as for *Vander Dussen* and *Berné* he was sure they would not detect him being equally lyable to punishment with him, and under the same circumstances.

On the same day that this work was first put in practise was *Meletier*, that was packt up in a *Basket* against his will, sent to *Utrecht* with the Ordinary Market-boat; superscribed,

*To be delivered to Madam Catharina du Bois living at Utrecht, &c.*

This Lady was one whom had some time before made complaint of House-breaking, and therefore is supposed to have this Present sent her, which opening, and seeing a naked Man, was mainly surprized, and began to shriek out, upon which a Gentleman and near kins man to her ran into the room where the *Basket* was opened, and seeing the quaint spectacle knew not what to think of the matter, the more by reason the Man gave no answer; but seeing he had a ball in his mouth, did all he could to get it out, untied his hands and feet, and ript up the  
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stitches of his nostrils, as a Taylor does the folds of a Petticoat. Which done they took him out of the Basket and set him before the fire, throwing a loose Gown about his shoulders for it was then very cold weather. In the mean-while they lay laughing together not knowing how or from whence this wonderfull Present came, till at last he recovering a litle strength and his speech, began to relate all the whole matter, without any palliation of the Truth, which made them laugh heartily. After he had warmed himself well, Madam *du Bois* bad her Maid fetch down a suit of Cloaths which she bestowed upon him, as also some moneys, with which he returned for *Amsterdam*, to see if he could hear any thing of them who had served him so kindly, but all in vain. And so much by the way.

A few weeks after this it happened that *Livia*, Mother in Law to *Diomedes*, began to grow sick, which was to him the occasion of some joy, hoping in short to live in greater Grandour than before, for he never in the least suspected but that she had abundance of Gold and Jewels. Every day the old Gentlewoman grew worse and worse and her vitals spent to the very last: often would she have had a Doctor to come, but he ever with one excuse or another shiffl'd it off; allowing here no hearty Diet but such as

I

when

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when she had her perfect health she could not eat, insomuch that she ended her days in misery, no sooner was she departed but *Diomedes* strips her and lays her out; sent also to some of his Creditors, who had threatened to be too hasty with him, letting them know that within 3 or 4 days he would pay them their Money in full, and desires them but to have the Patience, till the Corps was buried. He provided also his house of more servants, and considered with himself where he might have a Coach and Horses, as also a Yacht: in short the calculation he made of his Patrimony was very large, and never to be consumed. Impossible it was for him to wait for his Mothers interment before he must be peeping into the Chest, but could not find the Keys; for those she well secured in her life time, lest at any time her Stratagem should prove ineffectual and fail her: however in turning up the Bed-straw they found them between two planks, but so rusty that they were hardly sufficient for the use they were made for.

*Lebechea* having now got the Keys he made a shift to get the chest open, which he found stow'd with stones and Cannon-bullets (for her deceased Husband was the Gunner of a Castle in *Flanders*) and about 23 Ducatoons in Money with a Paper, the Tenor whereof was thus,

Son

Son and Heir.

**T**Hink not with thy self that I have  
any more Trefure left, than what  
thou seest here before thy eies, with  
which thou mayst satisfy thy self; since  
thou hast been so prodigal of what came  
by me, or mine. A fitter Inheritance  
I could not leave thee than these  
Stones; neward enough for all the  
Good I could ever enjoy from thy stony  
heart. Nor is it to be thought unrea-  
sonable, That thou, whose Hope  
only made thee show what another  
would do in Duty, and reciprocal  
Love, should be frustrate of thy  
hopes: but as every Dog gnaws the  
Bone for the sake of the Flesh that  
once grew on it, so I give thee Leave  
and Time enough, to vent thy Ma-  
lice and gnaw these Stones, as the  
Relicts of what thou hast vainly con-

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*sumed, which might have given me*  
*the same Comforts in my old Age, which*  
*sore against thy Will I have enjoyed.*  
Farewell.

But how our heir startled at this Last Will & Testament I leave to the Reader to judge; sure I am his passion Lorded it so far, that he ran down in all hast to the Corps, threw it out of the Coffin, began to punch it up and down the Floor, and trampled the insensible carcase under his feet, wishing now more that she were alive again, than when alive that she were dead, that she might but for one hour feel the effects of his Rage. He cursed her with more *Anathems*, than the Mass-priest with Bell, Book and Candle light. After he had so misused the Body he made his Maid dragg it out into the street, where hundreds came clust'ring about it, being an unusual Spectacle, & few knowing what was the meaning of it, till at last the Magistrates came to have notice of it, who immediately sent a messenger for him to appear at the *Stadt-house*, where making his appearance, they demanded the reason of his Inhumanity; he on the contrary began to relate what a trick she had serv'd him, and how she had been for so many years together maintained by him upon promise  
of



of making him heir to a considerable Estate, &c. The Magistrates not willing to hear any more of his Reasons commanded him forthwith to take her in, and intert the Corps after a decent manner, besides, to go the usual time in mourning, upon perihof the effects of their Displeasure. They also gave him a hint of some abuses he had put upon the East and West India Companies, which they threatned to take into examination if he did not rest pacified with their mercifull Injunction. Diomedes durst not make many words, but was fain to smother his Anger and depart in obedience to their Commands. So soon as he came at home he took in the Corps and after two dayes he buries it decently enough but with no great show, himself following the Bier.

When the Funeral was past, he cashier'd his new-taken-on servants, and razed all the Castles he had built in the Air. But above all it troubled him most, that he should be so forward as to promise his Creditors such speedy Payment, and that with such freedom; he was sensible that it would be badly taken out if they found themselves so mocked, and so consequently all fall upon him at once. He resolves therefore to pack up his Auls and get out of the way, since his last cast was play'd, and the only hope he had of raising his State and Fortune

proved no better than a meer Bubble, and to stay there much longer was the nearest way to Prison.

Pursuant to this design he transports all his Effects into the hands of one *Van Galen*, a person whom he knew to be really true and honest, and therefore reposed in him the more confidence. To another he committed his affairs by way of Procuration, and recommended to him the sole care of his business with Instructions to Compound with his Creditors, tho' after a shameful rate.

After he was gone the Creditors came in expectation of receiving full payment, but could neither meet with Man nor Money, save only *Odiard*, to whom he had given Procuration, who gave them but little hopes of getting their Money upon any likely conditions, especially when besides many other apologies on behalf *Diomedes*, he told them outright that the name of his inheriting a good Estate upon the Decease of his Mother in Law, was but a meer sham of the Old Woman; declaring the whole story at large. When they heard of that, some of them were so impatient that they threatened speedy execution: but *Odiard* let them know, that they would get nothing by foul means, and with one show'd them that he had no Effects, and therefore willed them to agree and compound with him whilst it was proffered them.

Some

Some of the Creditors were content to make a composition, but others were as unwilling: however at last they became of one mind, and desired the Party impow-  
 red to nominate a Place, which he did, ap-  
 pointing them a Tavern, thinking that so  
 when they had got a glass of wine, they  
 would be more flexible and easier to treat  
 withall, than otherwise.

When they were all come together being  
 13 persons in all *Odiard* out of the name of  
*Diomedes* bad them 5 per cent. At which  
 most of them flew out in a Passion and swore  
 they would rather spend that money to be  
 revenged on him than to receive it for full  
 Payment; so that *Odiard* had a hard task  
 to pacify them, and make them have pa-  
 tience to listen to what he would propose  
 more. At last he came to 8, and 10 per cent  
 with which the greater part being pretty  
 warm with wine were content, but the rest  
 not, thinking to press yet more out of him,  
 which they seeing that they could not do,  
 assented with the rest, and so came to  
 an agreement, *Van Galen* being security for  
 the money, upon which they parted, and  
*Diomedes* was sent for home, who was con-  
 strained immediatly to sell his House, his  
 Summer-Dwelling, Shop and Moveables,  
 and all litle enough to make eaven with his  
 Creditors at Ten in the Hundred. How-

ever he pay of the sum for which he had compounded and hires a house anew, thinking with the remainder of his Moneys to set up a Shop, which was not above 4000 *gild.* but just in the nick of time comes those that had been security for his Countrey-house to urge the third and last payment in-somuch that he was fain to part with that Money wherewith he thought to advance his Fortune and rear his State. Having now nothing left but only a parcell of stolen silks which he had reserved unfold<sup>as</sup> was mentioned pag. 192. which he durst not expose to open Sale because the Robbery was talk'd of all over the Town. he resolves upon a new Practise to put himself in stock again, which was after this manner.

Having 8 costly Diamond Rings which belonged to his wife *Olympia*, he procures 8 more, every way like those both in bigness weight and fashion, only these he caused to be made, were of Brass, and false stones, these he put in two several Boxes, the true and false each in a Box apart. He also put himself into an unwonted habit, colouring his Eie-brows and beard artificially and put on a long black Perrywig.

Thus attired like a Jew he directs his Course for *Utrecht*, taking the said Boxes along with him. When he was arrived he went forthwith to a Jeweller, where he proffered

proffered the Rings to sale. The Jeweller having thoroughly viewed them he prays *Diomedes* to set a Price which he thinking too high bad him set a Lower and so on till, they made a bargain which was for 4600 *gild*. When they were come to an agreement the Jeweller payd him the Money which he told himself before, and prays *Diomedes* to tell the heaps after him, which he did, letting in the mean while some pieces fall that the Jeweller out of Courtesy took up; and *Diomedes* having the Box of false Rings in his handkercheif clandestinely by vertue of Hocus Pocus took up the true and lay the false in the place, which the Jeweller could not so much as once mark.

Having received the Money, he returns immediatly for *Amsterdam*, taking a Waggon by the way; for fear the Jeweller should open the box before he lock'd it up; where arriving he immediatly put on his usual habit, thinking to sell those Jewels at *Amsterdam* altho he came to miscarry in his design, for intending to go to a Jewellers house he met with one *Muller*, a German, and a famous Rook at Tables, who in his time had play'd many a Game with *Diomedes*. These two meeting together upon the *Dam-rak* saluted each other, and began to enter into Dialogues about the old concern, that finally they both resolved to have a touch at

Back-gammon together and going into a noted Tavern in the *Calver-street*, to't they fell, where for 5 or 6 Games at a Ducat each, *Diomedes* won, but *Muller* seeing *Diomedes* very eager would not play for less than 25 gild. which the other, by the encouragement he had already, did not once decline, which at last brought our *Diomedes* so low that he was fain to depose his Jewels, that he in a trice lost, and was fain to leave his Coat for the Shot; which the next morning he redeemed.

Our Gentleman now quite destitute of money studies what practise he should follow to get more, and attempting many ways that miscarried, he at last meets with one that was effectual, which was thus.

Walking along the streets he saw a biller newly pasted up upon a Corner-house, which many Gentlemen were a reading, it being for the Public Sale of a Garden about half an hours walking without *Amsterdam*, and belonged to one Mr. *de Bo*—— an eminent Merchant, the summer before dwelling at *Amsterdam*, but then removed to *Haarlem*, partly for that he dreaded a War and consequently all the perils that Trading persons are in jeopardy of in such cases (he being sufficiently able to live on his yearly Revenues) and partly by reason that his Lady was for 3 years or more very subject to diseases, and

and advised to leave the Town, and receive the benefits of a more salubrious Air. This *Diomedes* seeing, he applies himself to the Gentleman disguised with a black *Perrywig*, Artificial Mustachios and Eie brows; besides a Cloak with the cape richly embroydered, pretending to be a *French Baron*, and desired to treat with him about his Garden. After many words used on both sides it was resolved that they should go and view it, which they did. But *Diomedes* told the Gentleman he was not willing to venture upon the purchase of it, till his Wife arrived who he said was upon the way, and he hoped would be in Town within 2 days, and desired him not to sell it till he had given him first notice of it (directing the Gentleman to the house of one of his Accomplices, where he should enquire of him by the name of *Monfr. de Rocheville*) the Gentleman was content to do so, and after a few complements took their leaves of each other for that time, the Gentleman going to the City-Door and *Diomedes* through the Town to see if he could meet with a Cully.

The next morning about 8 a Clock he sees a Gentleman with his Lady reading the Billet, and closing himself up with them, could hear by their discourse that the Place and Conditions liked them very well. They asked a boy where such a street was (being

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the place where the Owner lived, as it was specified in the Bill) *Diomedes* (anticipating the boys answer) asks them if they had a mind to see the Garden; Yes, very gladly, replies the Gentlewoman, *if we could find the owners house. Madam*, said *Diomedes*, *I shall show you my Garden: The Key is at my Brothers house, here hard by.* The Gentleman and his Lady follow *Diomedes* to the owners house, where coming he enters in before them, and asks the Maid for her Master, who made answer that he was not a stirring, *Pre'thee Sweetheart* (quoth he) *desire your Master to lend me the Key of his Garden, and tell him I shall return it towards night, and come and discourse him about the Bargain, so soon as my wife has seen it.* This he said whispering, so that the Gentleman and his Consort could not hear. The Maid goes up to her Master and tells him that the Gentleman who was there the other day was come with his Lady to see the Garden, and desired to have the Key. *Mr. de Bo*—— bids her give it him, and with one beg his excuse that he could not wait upon them thither, he being at that time not very well disposed, and desired a little rest.

With that *Diomedes* goes out, taking the Gentleman and his Lady with him, and brought them to the Garden, which they having thoroughly viewed, and examined

all



all the Con- and In-conveniences about the Premises, fell to bargaining.

*Diomedes* considering that it was not safe for him to sell it as the usual manner was, to be paid in 2 or 3 Terms, but rather to see if he could make it to be paid in ready money, and accordingly makes his Conditions, That if they would pay in ready money he would allow them 5 per cent. If in 3 moneths, 2 and a half per cent &c. The Gentleman calls his wife aside, and debates the matter with her, who counselled him rather to pay the Money down immediately, since that was a considerable profit. In sum they agreed for 3440 gild. for the Garden Orchard, House, Ponds and all other Appurtenances, and the next day Writings were drawn, and the Money tendered; with which *Diomedes* trudges away, promising he would go and fetch them the Key, which according to his word he had carryed home before promising to wait upon the Owner the next day in the Afternoon. Long waited the Buyer for his Chapman with the Key, who came not: ever now and then he peeped out to see if he could see him, but all in vain for no Chapman comes. About 2 in the afternoon when they had dined, the Gentlewoman councils her husband to take a walk & see if they could find the house, which by the help of the printed

bill they did. When they were come at the house, they pulled the Bell and demanded if they had not the Key of the Garden. The Owner over-hearing, steps out to the Door, and prays them to come in, telling them that he would wait upon them himself. So soon as he was drest he comes down stairs, and away they went together. By the way the Owner asks the Gentlewoman if her husband did not go with them. Yes Sir, quoth she, *this is my husband*. Nay, said he, *but I mean the Gentleman that was with you yesterday, with the Cloak embroydered on the Cape and a black Perrywig*. Why, replies the Lady, *I know not that you have seen me in company with any such Gentleman since I came to Town, unless it be your Brother, of whom we bought the Garden*. My Brother! replies the Owner *I have neither Brother nor Sister in the whole World, as for the Garden it belongs solely to me*. Upon these words the Gentleman and his Wife were so surprised that they had not the power to move one step forward, but standing still they looked one another in the face as pale as Death. Suspecting indeed that there might be some Roguery in the case, the rather when they bethought themselves that *Diomedes* did not appear, since he had received the Money. At last the Gentlewoman who could not any longer contain her self burst forth into these words.

words. Certainly he told us that the Garden was his, and that you were his Brother, we therefore really beleev'ing (as we still beleeve) he had power to make conveyance of it, have purchased it for the sum of 3440 gild. ready money, which we have deposited already and received the Writings. Madam, replies the Owner, I will assure you he has no claim to it for I never saw him before, neither can I tell you who he is, any more than that he came to me about 2 or 3 days ago. and desired me to show him the Garden, he promising me to treat about the Bargain, so soon as his Lady came to town, &c. Hereupon they began to stare one another in the Face, and so astonished that they knew not whether they dreamed or were awake. In sum after a long dispute and in the heat of Fury they fell to loud, but not angry words, and observing the People to begin to cluster they returned to the Gentlemans Lodgings, where they heard one another at large and brought the Evidence with the Notary that signed the Instrument, altho it did not signify much since it was conspicuously evident that the Garden belonged to Mr. de Bo ——— and that none else had any Title to it, as also that he had no such Brother in the World. Their extreme shift was to send all over the Town to inquire for the Party, that had sold the Premises, but none such could be found  
or

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or heard of, for he had quite altered his habit, and put on a flaxen wig; and the Gentleman said to be content with the Cheat he had put upon him, and comfort himself with the wig he had bought at so dear a rate.

*Diomedes* having got such a noble purchase he resolves to set up shop again, and try what he could do that way once more; and in order thereto buys a good quantity of Silks, paying some part in ready moneys, and the rest he took upon Trust, amongst which Goods he also stow'd those which he had Stole (mentioned pag 190) he hired also a maid to keep the shop, to dispatch errands, and the like.

It happened that 2 famous Pick-pockets came out of North-Holland to practise in Amsterdam, both Women, These two being above the degree of your ordinary Filchers, made up a project between them which was thus. They went to a Chirurgion of known fame for his great ability and skill, whom they accosted after this manner, Sir, we have been happily informed of your great experience in the Mysteries of Chirurgery, after which we have been in some measure restless, till we have been so fortunate as to speak with you about a Sister of ours, which is at certain times of the Moon troubled with a Lunacy, and by reason is was advised by some of great Judgements to let her blood, we therefore come to give you the trouble of  
your

her helpful hand and advice in the matter, her head is sometimes so perplexed with worldly affairs, she being indeed by nature, much addicted to avarice; and when she suffers under those sad passions talks of nothing else than Money and Goods. The Chirurgeon told them he was well assured that he could do it if it were practicable by human skill and told them that if they pleased to bring her, he would give them his advice. The one of them makes answer, that all the cunning must be in bringing her thither, and when brought for them to get out of her sight, for so long as they were present she was ten times worse than otherwise: To which the Surgeon replies he had a very convenient back-door by which if they thought good they might slip out, having first led her into the Parlour. This advice was very acceptable, and they accordingly went out to market, where the first shop they found most likely for their turn was that of *Diomedes*, where they bought to the value of 460 gild. in flower'd Silks which done they pray'd *Diomedes* to send his Maid along with them to receive the Money to which he assented, so away they go together, till coming at the Chirurgeons, they went directly into the Parlor, the Maid following, one of the Women carrying the Silks: but when the Maid would have gone quite thro, the Chirurgeon push'd to the Door

Door and would not let her go any further; the Women in the mean time running out at the Back-door, and the Surgeon with the help of his Man took the Maid and made her fast to the stool with a Towel, making also her hands and feet fast, upon which she roars out, crying, *What d'ee mean, Sir? pray what do you intend to do?* The Chirurgion takes no notice of her words, but goes on with his work, takes her Arm and binds it fast with a clout, she all the time crying out, *I come not here to be let blood, I come for my Money, and Money I will have before I go out, What do you intend to murder me? You rogue! You villain let me go, and give me my money, or else my goods again.* Still the Surgeon proceeds on with his work, taking his lannce lets her blood in spite of all she could say or do, till at last he perceived her swoond away, and then stopt the Vein, binds it carefully up, and takes spirit of Harts-horn and other fortid Quintessences which he held under her nose, sprinkling a little Vinegar upon her face, till she recovered. So soon as she came a little to her self again, she began with fair means to enquire after the Women that had brought her thither, as also what was become of the Silks. The Surgeon hearing her name the Goods so specially, began then to mistrust something of reality might be in the case, and after hearing the thing more amply, and

find-

finding that she had her perfect understanding, began to repent his rashness, begging a hundred times pardon of the Maid. and telling her how that he was deceived, &c. Upon which he untied the Bands and set her at liberty. The Maid goes out sadly dismayed and ran all about to enquire after the Women, but to no purpose, so that she was fain to return home without either money or Goods. Her master seeing her so pale, which was occasioned partly by the loss of her blood, and partly at the loss of the Goods, he asked her, what she ail'd; and what had befallen her? She made answer, that she was threatened by the two Women, and told him all the whole passage that had happened to her since she went out. He understanding the matter at large for a while raged and stormed at the Women who had play'd him that dirty trick.

After he had kept Shop about a moneth or two, and spent the Stock as well as the Profit, so that the shelves began to grow thin, he went about to see if he could meet with a Whole-sale Cully of whom he might receive Goods upon Credit; but to his sorrow could not meet with one but what would have money upon Delivery.

In the mean time it happened that the two Gentlemen who had been security for him at *Rotterdam* for his Countrey house, came to  
urge

urge the last Payment, which was only 2000 gild. he having paid at one time 1000 gild. and at another time 6000. These seeing that *Diomedes* had made agreement with others and that they were paid agreeable to the Composition, they resolved to ensnare him since they could find no other way to get their Money: and in order thereto made one privy to the Concern, whom they sent now and then to *Diomedes* with Buttons, Silk, Ribbons and other pedling trifles which he gave him upon Credit. After he had been there several times with *Diomedes*, he told him that a certain Merchant in *Rotterdam* had desired of him to enquire if he could hear of a good Customer for him, who could help him off with some silks, who if he be an honest man, he desired no money before he shut his books; and with all told *Diomedes* if he could serve him with his Recommendation he would be glad to do him any Courtesy that lay in his power. *Diomedes* was well pleased with this Offer, resolved to make use of it, and thanks the man for his Civility who took his leave of him, promising within a day or two to send him a letter about the business they now discoursed upon, as shortly after he did, the tenure whereof was thus.



SIR,

According to my promise I have spoke to Monsr. de la Ruë, who is willing to dispose of his Goods upon the Terms I told your of; so that it is only needfull that you should come your self and see what is necessary, or for your turn, as I doubt not but you will find all according to your mind. In expectation of your presence I shall remain,

SIR,

Your obedient and most  
faithfull servant,

Henry Mormerens.

So soon as he had read this Letter he resolves forthwith to set forward on his Journey, designing also to go onto Antwerp; to see if he could meet with another Enterprise for his turn there. Arriving at Rotterdam he went directly to the house where Mormerens told him that he lived, where comin

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he received him with all imaginable Courtesy, that he should not distrust any thing. Presently *Mormerent* takes him along with him to a house where *de la Rue* must be supposed to live, but coming there answer was made that he was not within, upon which *Mormerent* whispers the servant in the Ear who ran immediately to Mr. *Cornbert* and his Brother in Law, who were the Gentlemen that had been security for *Diomedes*, to let them know that he was there. *Diomedes* supposing that he was gone to call his Master waits there very diligently till *Cornbert* and his Brother came with the *Seibout*, who apprehended our poor Merchant and carried him to a place where they kept him in custody.

*Cornbert* having his Party secure, demands his Money, and threatens him unless he would pay him immediately, that he would send him away to Prison, where at last he should be constrained to pay it, besides the Expences, Charges and other inconveniences. To this *Diomedes* replies, that he had no money nor Credit at *Rotterdam*, and prays them to quit him and he would pay them upon his arrival at home. But the security would give no ear to any such Proposal but told him that if he would he might easily help that defect another way by sending the Keys to *Amsterdam*, and give order to some trusty

any Person to send the money, for upon no other Condition he should come out of their marches. A long time he argued the case with them, and protested that he meant sincerely and that it was more than 3 times the value of the Debt that they injur'd him &c. but all he could say or infer was but lost labour, so that after he had stayd there 48 hours he was fain to send the Keys to his friend.

During the time of his being under arrest was noised thro the Town how that one *Lebecbea* of *Amsterdam* was arrested, who was one of the most notorious Cheats in the 17 Provinces; with an Addition of many enormous and fraudulent practises he had been guilty of, but chiefly in Merchandise, having dealt in most things, and specially in Wines, Grain, Woods, Linnen, Silks, &c. all which coming to the ear of Mr. *Arond*, whose loss was so great that he could not be forgetfull of it, *Diome* having cheated him of 13600 *gild.* as was mentioned in pag. 183 he therefore betakes himself speedily to the Golden Lion where the other was held in custody, to view if they were not the same person; where coming he discovered in him the very features of him that had deceived him, the same body and proportion, but in the habit quite different as also in voice, for before he

COUN-

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counterfeited a Pharisaical voice, the better to delude his Merchant. At first *Arond* was in a doubt what to do, whether that he should tax him with it or no, but when he considered what a report went abroad of him, as that he had play'd many absurd cheats, and that in Grain too, he took courage and expressed himself after this manner. *Are not you the very Gentleman who about 3 years ago bought so much Grain to send for North-Holland?* naming some particulars more. *Diomedes* stares him full in the face and with a dejected countenance had already confessed it, but considering the consequence of the matter if he should own it; stoutly denies that ever he bought any such bargain at *Rotterdam*, insomuch that *Arond* began to fear that he had been too temerous, and wished he had not moved the matter, well knowing, that if he had not sufficient proof thereof, the business might have an unwelcome Issue.

The next morning *Diomedes* receives the 2000 gild. wherewith he paid *Cornert*, thinking thereupon to be at liberty but much mistaken, for he had no sooner paid it but in comes *Moxmerent* bringing him a bill of 160 gild, or thereabouts, for Buttons, Ribbons and other such inconsiderable wares he had sold him. When *Diomedes* saw that, he was almost out of his senses, swearing that he  
neither

neither would nor could pay it, and began to rail against his Creditor, to which Mormerent replies, Sir, I pray you do not take so ill out that I come to demand my own. I am sorry ('tis true) to find you in this condition, and cannot devise in all the World how your Partie should so come to meet you here: However I must needs tell you that I expect my Money before you depart hence, and therefore to that I continue the Arrest.

With that Diomedes flew into a great Passion and told him that he scorn'd to stand disputing with such a Pick-thak or Trepan, and that he might do his worst. To be brief they fell to high words and Mormerent charges the Officer with him, which Diomedes seeing was fain to content himself, and send down the Keys again to the Maids, for another sum, both to pay off Mormerent, and defray his Charges, which upon such accounts are generally considerable.

Opportunity oftentimes makes a Thief is the language of a true Proverb. The Maids were upon his first sending the Key under a most heavy Temptation, but now much more when seeing his delay they could no more moderate their Affections to so pleasant a Fair, and to be plain they sent him what money he ordered, converted part of the rest to their own use, and so long as he was absent, treated their Minions, with

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all that they could desire or think of, no sparing to take of the best Silks they could meet with to put them into a Garb, suitable to such a manner of house-keeping as they then held: So that what he had unjustly got vanished in as easy and unjust a manner.

*Diomedes* so soon as he had Moneys, cleared his Accompts with *Mormerent*, and speeds him on his Journey towards *Antwerp* thinking there to do some feat that might countervail the hard measure he had at *Rotterdam*. Arriving at *Antwerp* he met with a Youth, in drift and humour one of the very same stamp he was of himself, to whom he imparts his mind, and made an Overture to him, how that if he would joyn with him in some certain enterprises he had in hand, that he would afford him a competent allowance whereon he should live a very splendid Life, discovering to him the whole scope of the project.

The Proposal liked *Zenodor* very well (for so he was called) who promised him upon the word of an honest *Gasconier*, that he would act his part so gently, that *Diomedes* should be well served in his project.

Hereupon *Diomedes* went to a Mercers shop where he bought several pieces of Silk and as much Plush as would make a Coat, which they got a Tailor to make and furnish with trimming suitable. Which done they

they left *Antwerp* and came to *Rotterdam*, where they bought 6 Money Chests well bound with Irons, and having filled them with bags of Sand and Flint, they went forward for *Amsterdam*, where *Diomedes* hired a very stately House and furnished it with moveables and Urensil, so that none ever had been in the house but they looked upon *Zenodorus* to be a very rich Gentleman, being here a stranger and unknown. Which universal Opinion was confirmed by many notable stratagems, as we shall impart to the Reader in their course.

*Zenodorus* new newly settled in his State, nothing aild him but want of money to maintain that Grandour. All the Actions he had learned by heart, and was as practical as his Master, Hypocrisy and the art of designing he had at his fingers ends, all the Tokens of Generosity he could counterfeit, and make show of a magnanimous spirit: the greater sort he knew how to make flexible by Flattery and parasitical expressions, and as for the Vulgar he could cut their throats with a feather. In short he was every way accomplished for a Son of Fortune, which *Diomedes* observing, fully resolved to make him fit for his turn and not to spare for Money, nor to lose a Lamb, for a farthing worth of Tarr. He goes to his Money chest to take out some Money he had occa-

sion for, and finding his bags much lower than he expected he began to make a calculation, and found that there was 800 gilld. or upwards taken out upon which he called the Maid to whom he had sent the Key, and taxes her with the Theft, which she nevertheless resolutely denied, saying that it was done in presence of the other Maid, who was also called in, that they might confront each other. The first denies that she had it, and the other that she took it; yet both spoke the truth, for she that took it gave it over to the other to keep. In short they denied it so stoutly that *Diomedes* began half to be perswaded that it was his own error, and that he must be mistaken in his calculation, and was fain to put up the matter so, without much controversy, lest the Maids should detect som Villanies he was factious in, and they made privy to.

Thus it was low tide with his Cash, and he forced to make use of his Witts to get so much as might serve his occasions and supply *Zenodor* to maintain his Grandour, lest he for want of reparation (like an old house that goes to decay) might prove a lost purchase, and all the expences in Money, he had already bestowed on the Tool, might be but thrown away. Yet no stratagem he could think upon or undertake that would prove effectual for a speedy Levy, he there-



he carried a parcel of Silks to the Vendu-  
master, or Outrier, to convert into Mo-  
ney, which having done he furnishes Zen-  
odor with 1800 gild. who takes two Maids  
to his service, and a Footman; the Maids  
to keep his house, and the Footman to  
appear abroad with him.

Besides these Diomedes furnishes him with  
a thorough-pac'd villain (who had many time  
assisted him in this kind of Rascallity) to be  
in the house with him, and baptized him  
by the name of a Steward.

These two being excellently well vers'd  
in the Trade, made the World have a ho-  
nourable esteem for the Lord of the Stage,  
by many external appearances, as when  
they bought a considerable quantity of sheet  
Lined, about the solidity of Ducatoons, which  
they cut out as an Apothecary, or Con-  
fectioner does his Lozenges, into round  
pieces, and put them into Bags: which  
done Zenodor made great acquaintance with  
some eminent Merchants; these he fre-  
quently invites to Supper, during which time  
his Steward continually passes by the door,  
with bags under his Arm, and makes an  
incessant rattling of Money; sometimes  
coming down to desire his Master to take  
some other course, or else that Telling of  
Money would continue all night, where-  
upon he would make answer, that if time

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fauld them that they should dispatch it with the Ballance. And thus by degrees it passed from hand to hand, that Zenodor was a Gentleman of a vast Estate. Besides that one stratagem he was wont to have Letters sent him upon sleeveless affairs, altho the Tenure thereof importing some great money business, which he would here & there negligently let fall for others to take up, or perhaps having any in presence when he received them, read aloud that they might hear him. Ever now and then he would be bringing of Money-chests upon sledges, which were only filled with baggs of Leed, made as we have said before in the form of Ducatoons; these he would take out in presence of the Neighbours and give his Cashier and Page order to bring them into such and such a Chest above stairs, and so speedily got the name of a Rich Gentleman, for, *Mundus vult decipi*, the World will be deceived.

When Zenodor was now fully known abroad for a man of great worth in regard of his vast Estate, Diomedes thought it high time to make use of his Implement, and to receive fruit of a Tree of his own planting, seeing his Condition grew meaner and meaner; he therefore went to divers Merchants to buy up Goods, who refused to credit him; he therefore asked them if they were content that he gave them Zenodor's security,

none

one ever refused him, on condition he could make him his security, but rather urged him to receive more Goods upon that account, by which *Diomedes* got a great Estate, to the value of 140000 *gild.* in wares, which as fast as he could, he converted into moneys.

The Maid that kept his shop seeing now so many rich opportunities, could no longer contain her self within the limits of honesty, but ever now and then would take an odd piece of Money, whether by bargaining too hard with a Customer, beyond the price imposed, or clandestinely converting that to her own use, which she thought her Master would never come to know of; this *Diomedes* did really beleieve, for that he had often missed odd pieces of Silks, and as *an evil Doer is an evil Dreamer*, so *Diomedes* measured her Corn by his Bushel. Now it happened upon a time that 3 Men were carried by to Prison, which the Maid running out hastily to look after forgot the Key of her Trunk upon the Compter, which he seeing, went to meet her at the door, and sent her of an errand, which she, not once thinking of her Keys, went to do: in the mean time *Diomedes* goes up stairs and unlocks her Trunk where he found Seven Hundred Rix-dollars, upon which he called in two Neighbours, and in their presence

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took them out with some pieces of Silk which he also found there, locks the Trunk and lays the Key in the same posture and place he found it in.

About 2 or 3 days after the Maid having occasion to go abroad resolved to take some Money with her, to buy one knick-knack or other, and finding the nest but the birds flown, comes running down stairs, crying out, she was rob'd, and her Trunk had been broke open. Upon which *Diomedes* made answer that she was not rob'd, but his Shop and Money-box, with one telling her what he had done, and in what manner, to wit, in presence of 2 Neighbours, and threatned her besides that if she would not make a candid confession of all, he would deliver her over into the Hands of Justice. The Maid swore and cursed her self with many imprecations that she was wrong'd, and that the money was honestly come by: in short they fell out so desperately, and words on both sides grew so loud that People began to throng about the Door, and *Diomedes* thought it his best course to give over, lest she should bolt out some of his Roguery, which she was well acquainted with. For in the middle of their Controversy she gave him now and then a back-blow or hint of Rope-merits. So that for that time they left off, but falling into a more serious

serious discourse at night she entred into a new Covenant with him, that for the future he should not tax her with such enormous Crimes as she protested she was never factious of, and with one told him how that every one knew that the Mercer was robbed, and that she knew him for the Party that was guilty of the Fact, &c. These and other reasons compelled *Diomedes* to take all in good part, and put up the matter. Whence we may observe that the wicked practises of some men prove a bridle to hold them in, and arm them with Patience, so that they are fain to smother such abuses as inwardly torment them, and are oftentimes forced to comply with that which they have all their Life time to repent.

*Fernelia* (for that was the Maids name) was none of the meanest Beauties, but very ill bred, and with all inclinable to strife, whose litigious Spirit none ever could endure, till she came into his service, which for the afore said reasons, sore against his will he was fain to bear. Many times he attempted to violate her chastity, but could never obtain his will, for which he took a special liking to her, and at long last fell a courting her in a seeming way, but because she was of very mean Parentage he had no great stomach to adventure himself with her. However she held her self very coy. He

therefore to show her more kindness and the respect he had for her gave her a larger liberty, and hired another Maid to be under her, and by the means of Zenodor furnished himself so with Goods that he left of the Retail-trade, and fell to Whole-sale, shutting up the Windows and Doors. Fernelia seeing the great respect he had for her, and that the other Maid as well as the Man began to stand in awe of her, she began privately to act her part to inveigle him so much as was possible at an under: and to that end went oftentimes to a Popish Chappel, under a great show of Devotion and Piety, knowing him to be that way inclinable, being the Religion he was educated in. Every night at going to Bed she would mutter over a bushel of *Ave Maria's*, interluding alwayes a *Pater noster*, and that so as he could very well hear her. One of her Pharisaical prayers which was afterwards found in writing was after this manner:



**O** Holy Mother Virgin, I thank thee,  
That out of thy bountifull Good-  
ness, thou wast pleased to work upon

me this Conversion, which to me is more  
 dear than Gold or precious Stones;  
 That thou hast granted me the Power  
 of renouncing all Earthy and corrup-  
 tible ways, and to come to thee with an  
 unfeigned Heart, as becomes me. Hi-  
 therto have I erred from thy ways in  
 heresy, and have been wholly bent to  
 what was evil, altho now I am reduc-  
 ed to what is just in thy eyes, and  
 wholly inclined to worship and serve  
 thee, all the days of my Pilgrimage  
 in this vain and transitory World. Hi-  
 therto was I in love with vanity and  
 things that mount no higher than  
 Earth, and last no longer than till  
 my change shall come, which is but an  
 atom to that vast infinite and incom-  
 prehensible Entity of Divine Majesty,  
 and the time of their Enjoyment no  
 more than a Minute to Eternity, and  
 yet have I coveted and thirsted after

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this perishable Mammon, as a Thief  
unjustly indeavours to make himself  
Master of what properly belongs to  
another, whose end is misery and ever-  
lasting Grief and Torment. But now  
O Holy Virgin my soul is totally bent  
towards thee, and my zeal wholly  
inclined to purchase that unperishable  
Good, like the vertuous, whose reward  
is everlasting joy. Oh! how happy?  
how happy and joyfull am I? that I  
am not like others, Oh? how ought  
I to praise thee? and how shall I be  
able to manifest my gratitude to thee,  
who hast wrought upon me this happy  
Conversion, and reduced me out of  
the way of Error and blindness? Hence-  
forward I will do my utmost endea-  
vour to serve my Master faithfully,  
and do my duty in that State of Life  
and Vocation whereto thou hast called  
me. My Master to whom I am in duty  
obliged



obliged to serve, I will serve faithfully,  
and do what is upright and just that  
so my future course of life may be an  
expiation to purge me of my former  
Errors, which now with tears I heart-  
ily relent, that so I may in this world  
rest secure in thy holy Protection and  
dwell with thee eternally: Amen.



*Ave Maria &c.*



*Ave Regina Cæli, &c.*

Diomedes hearing her incessantly at Prayers  
by night, would sometimes set his Ear to  
the Key-hole [or perhaps sometime his eie]  
and hearing her often repeat this and other  
Prayers, wherein she made great manifesta-  
tion of honesty and Integrity of Life, he  
could not but look upon her as a sincere  
and pious Convertit, since he could never  
really tax her with any unjust Fact, but as  
he might sometimes suspect her, which  
suspicion was now clearly removed by this  
subtle and Hypocritical conduct, and fur-  
ther

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ther more that he had made proof of her Chastity. With these thoughts he arrives at this conclusion that he would absolutely make her his Wife : and in order thereto fell upon a fresh Suit and renewed his Courtship, to which she would not seem to hear, saying she was too young (and I know not what excuses) but was ever carefull to hold him within reach, still showing him a very friendly countenance, that he might not draw away his affections and fix'em upon another. Her attire she made after the newest mode, and her head she trickt up with Points and Laces, leaving her Breasts not plainly open, but just so as his eie might have the benefit of an acceptable Object, thereby to allure and make him more eager in the pursuit of his scope. Every morning as soon as she rose up, she went and paid her duty to the Looking glass, and set her Locks in order, as the Mercer does his Silks in the shop-windows, washing her Virgins face with perfumed Waters, then setting of all her accoutrements, which during commonly a third part of the day, *Diomedes* blindly supposed it to be spent in Devotion. Every day he invented new Delights to caress her with, as inviting her to go abroad in a *Cheese volante*, or else to divert themselves by water in a Yacht and all to purchase her good will. Long dured this

this Courtship between them, and many Jealousies there were on both sides. Never could she go out, but he dogg'd her, and every one that passed by the Door if they did but cast an eie upon her, he concluded it was som Corriual, and every young spark that pull'd of his hat, he took for a Competitor, that oftentimes he could not refrain from asking her, who it was, which she for her own advantage would tell him it was t'one or t'other, tho she had never seen them in her Life before, only to increase his Jealousy; for she observed, how she had the ascendant of his heart: and to add to the matter she contrived several Letters, as if she had a World of Suitors; one whereof was after this manner, as near as I can remember, for I have lost the copy.

DEAR MADAM.

*MY last may save me the labour  
to express the Joy, or Sadness  
I am lyable to upon your Smiles,  
or Frowns. The Heavens are my  
witness that my Integrity, Zeal and  
Fidelity do deserve the one, altho some  
would*

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would endeavour to make me fear the  
other. But I am better assured of your  
Constancy, than that my Enemies  
should deterr me from the hopes I repose  
in your worthy *S E L F* by such weak  
Stratagems. Madam, I am sorry that  
your affairs at home are so urgent that  
they prove a let to the Blissess I might  
enjoy by those whisperings which we  
must be content to exchange at stolen  
opportunities: but since those seasons  
fall out so rarely I humbly beg of your  
goodness, to let us remedy that defect  
by frequent writing, in hopes where-  
of, I remain

M A D A M

Your most humble, and most  
obedient Servitor

A. D. H.

This Letter with another she cunningly  
laid in a French Dictionary, which she had  
some time before borrowed of her Master,  
the

the Letter being written in that Language which she spoke expertly well, and occasionally upon her going out a Doors upon a certain Message, she asked *Diomedes* about some words in French, that she was sure he did not know, but must have recourse to that very place in the Dictionary to resolve her in, and seeing him step into the Parlour, (as she was sure) to fetch the Dictionary, she stepped out.

*Diomedes* turns over the leaves, and finds the Letter, for there the Book opened of it self, and at the first glance saw the words DEAR MADAM, was so surpris'd, that taking out the Letters, he closed to the Book, and quite forgot the words she asked him about: when he perceived that she was gone he read the Letter, which struck him into a deep Melancholy, wherein he continued till she came home, expecting his last doom with the turning of her eie, she when returned knew the occasion of his sadness and finding the stratagem take well, tormented him so much the more, by coy answers, and averse looks. Long lasted this misunderstanding between them, and yet he never met with a positiv denial, for so doing she feared he might quite renounce her and implant his affections on another, so as that all her subtilty could not revoke them. Seldom ever went she to Church but he out of  
Jea-

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Jealousy would follow her and take his place at a convenient distance, where he might see her. One time it happened that in Lent she went to *Vespers*, being pretty late in the Evening when the Church went out, and coming out of Doors he espied a young Gentlewoman both of Habit, Body, Gesture and all things else like her, whom he followed and indeavoured to close up with her. It happened that *Fernelia* came out just after him and seeing him go *jig* by *joll* with another, suspected it was some new Darling or other, which because of her own obstinacy he courted, thought it high time to accept of his proffer, and to dally no longer with him, and according to that resolution, arising from a casual passage gave her assent to what he proposed and within a few days after ratified the matter.

Our Bridegroom invites all his Creditors to a splendid Feast setting *Zenodor* in the highest place at Table, thinking now for the last time to treat them at their own Charges, they being upwards of 170 persons (as the Party imployed to invite them confessed) none knowing that he was Debtor to them all.

*Diomedes* had for this end prepared a great Table which was made on purpose, for the entertainment of so many Guests, placing (as was said) *Zenodor* at the upper end and

his

his principal Creditor at his Right hand, and next to him one to whom he was indebted a litle less, and so gradually all his Creditors according to the greatness of their claims. The table was set with all sorts of delicacies that was acceptable for the pallat. After the meal was over they fell to play and pastim, as is there usual upon such occasions, which continued till about 12 a clock at night: when the Bridegroom took his Bride and conducted her to Bed, which was very gorgeously set out.

But before he enjoyed the delights of a nuptial bed fell out a dismal chance; for *Cecil* the other Maid envying the good Fortune of *Fernelia* studied how she might deprive her of the Caresses she trusted to receive from her hasty Bridegroom: and well knowing that the Bride was ever more fearfull of Ratts, she went to a Maulsters house that was not very far from thence, and pray'd the Servant that when he took a live Rat in the Trap that he should keep them for her; and the night before this jovial day he chanced to take a couple which he delivered to *Cecil*. The Rats she took and having bruised the feet of the one between two Stones, she put them both under an Earthen Pot in the Bed and covered over with the Bed-cloaths that it could not be discerned, and the Ear of the Pot so fastened

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ned with the sheet that by turning up the Cloaths the Pot must also turn up. The Bridegroom and his Bride being both undrest he turns up the Coverlet and sheets upon which one of the Ratts ran out and the other lay wallowing upon the Bed. The Bride seeing this, shrieked out, immediately swoounded away, and fell upon the Floor, as insensible as the feigned Niece that was transformed into a stone. No less amazed was he to see his Jewel in such a Condition, he not knowing in the World what to do, for endeavouring to raise her up and if possible to draw on her Morning Gown, found her as heavy as lead, and cold, her Countenance was as pale as a dead Corps. Long struggled he to get her up but all to little purpose insomuch that he was fain to cry out.

Upon this noise all the Guests that were merry at sundry sorts of Pastime came rushing in, where they found her laying upon the Floor, and he covering her as much as was possible with the skirt of his shirt. No means were spared they could devise to recover her again, some burned gums, another comes with the Vinegar Bottle, till at last she began to move and reach out her Arms which gave them all hopes that she would recover: in sum they removed her into another chamber, where the bed  
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was warmed for her and 2 or 3 Gentlewomen sat to bear her Company, altho the rest being surpris'd with this sudden casualty left off their Diversion and went home, leaving the new married Couple to their Retirement.

Three days after this *Fernelia* lay sick, and bedded not with her Bridegroom till the fourth night.

When all those things were past, and the jovial days ended, *Diomedes* began to make speculation upon his Darling, who for the first 2 Moneths gave him all imaginable contentment, insomuch that all whatever she desired or demanded was granted: so that nothing was seen between them but the real Tokens of Love, and with great assuredness he imparted all to her that he had in his Heart; little distrusting that it would prove so great a trouble to him in after-times; for this morning had a foul evening, and this Beggar he had set a Horse-back was quickly upon the Gallop.

When the subtle *Fernelia* was made privy to his Heart, and was sensible of his Imperfections, began to act for Empress; and bridled him so in, that he had not the least word to say for himself, but, like a Bear with a ring in his snout, must go where his Owner leads him, to clear himself it was in vain, for so he might prove himself a Liar, and

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and to Hector it out was unsafe, for he knew the perils he was under if she out of a rash and insubid humour should, publish his Knavery abroad; thus he still continued in torments and subject to the greatest and worst of Plagues, which is a *Womans Tongue*. Her *Pater-Nosters* were now Metamorphosed into Oaths and curses, her *Ave Maria's* into Nicknames and Rehearsals of his Failings, her Hypocritical Prayers were transformed into a perpetual scolding and despightful language, all which he was forced to take in good part. *Emilia* 'tis true could use her clapper with great Dexterity, but he had the same advantages against her, which this had against him; *Olimpia's* Tongue was also well hung but she ever had reason on her side, which he with reason could never either blame or oppose, and by both these came his Fortune; but from this it was far more intolerable being by him advanced from the Dunghil, to the spire of Fortune: her tongue was void of all reason and Moderation, nay the very Quintessence of all the Shrews tongues in *Europe*. For knowing well that altho before she was the Maid, and he Lord and Master, yet by her hypocrisy and show of Probity she was mounted as high as he; where he way *Cajus* she was *Caja*, was he *Leo*? she was *Leena*: nay altho she would allow him to be the *Head*, she would be sure

to be the *Cap*: In short, their Harmony was such that he could not endure an Equal, nor she a Superior.

The shop was solely managed after her pleasure, and servants taken in, and cashier'd as it best liked her. She hired many young men to keep her shop but either finding, them byass'd on her Husbands side or too dull, ever turned them away, till at last she met with two for her turn, both of a stamp: these she frequently admitted where it was illicit for any save her husband. Never went he abroad but they were a junketting together, and seldom stay'd he at Home, for Home was his Hell: this gave them occasion frequently to carouse together, with a crew of infamous Whores and Rogues, and all at the Cost of the Good man of the house, whose ill-got wealth, was spent upon a way as dishonorable and light.

Such were now the animosities between them that they seldom lay together, a thing purposely created by her self, the better to entertain her Paramours; who took their Turns; Nor did she spare the shop to serve them in what they desired or demanded. Money they had always at command, and liberty was at any time granted them to go abroad which besides neglecting their business, was a good occasion to spend money in.

In omitting many Instances of her disloyal

disloyal behaviour and light deportment towards her husband one I cannot pass by, which fell out upon his going out of town, upon which Journey the whole Gang had notice and an Invitation to a merry Banquet; and not only those of her own crew, but also all the Rascallity in *Amsterdam* they were acquainted with, were summoned to the Rendezvous, and accordingly at the time appointed made their Appearance, where they were all splendidly treated with a sumptuous Table, furnished with all kinds of Delicacies, as are customary upon such *solemn* Occasions. When supper was ended, they fell to Singing, Dancing, and Playing upon different Instruments; others fell to Gaming and play; and others recreated themselves with other Divertisements. In sum they spent the fore part of the night in variety of Pastime; till the most part grew a little light-headed, upon which nothing would serve them, but that each should go to bed with his Darling, others there were so sensual and shameless among them, that they ran up and down the house naked to the shift: and threw their Cloaths all on a heap together. This Frolick lasted till about 3 in the Morning, at what time *Diomedes* comes unexpectedly home, and knocking at the Door was unadvisedly let in by a Youngman and a stranger in the house

house took it to be some of the Company that were newly gone out. *Diomedes* seeing a strange face wist not what to say, and the Youth much less: but hearing a great noise and rattling above, he steals softly up stairs into another Room, where he waited to see what all this would turn to at last. Now was he in a thousand doubts what to do, not daring to go in for fear they seeing no other shift to escape might fall upon his bones, or otherwise that his Wife, who when intriged would out run the compass of reason, and so teach him to climb the Ladder, for with one word speaking he was a man of Death. But seeing all the Candles put out he went softly into the Room where their Cloaths lay on a heap, and took away their Breeches, Shoes and Perrywigs which he lock'd up in a Room apart and went out, walking the streets till he saw light in a Tavern whither he went and calling for a Manchet and a Pint of Sack, he looked over all the Papers that he had found in their Pockets, having also plundered them of their Watches, Gold and what else he could come by. Amongst those Papers he found divers Bills of Exchange and Letters of Importance which gave him light enough to know that several Merchants Servants were in the Rout: and having informed himself who they were and where

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their Masters lived, as also others among them who were married men, he dispatched Letters to such Merchants as he understood those Youngmen served, including the Bills and Letters which he found in their Pockets, these he sent away with a Porter, who he thought did not know him. He sent also letters to those honest Gentlemens Wives, who had their Rendezvous at his house, and told them where they should find their husbands.

The next morning when they all awaked some so besotted with Liquor that they hardly wist where they were, but had quite forgot the mad Frolicks they had acted the night before, others who had sitten up late at play could hardly be awakened by their Companions: in sum it was high light day before any of them stirred; but hearing some people at the Door, who had knocked 3 or 4 times before they within knew. *Fernelia* hearing that some body knockt at Door and saw it light day, was in a lamentable consternation, not knowing what to do: fearing first that it was her husband who might be returned sooner than was expected; and secondly how to get the Company out without being taken notice of. Still they continued knocking at the Door, and thundered as if they would knock the house down: *Fernelia*, calls her man Tom, who  
lay



lay behind her, for he was her chief Minion, & the only person for whose sake she had made this splendid Treat: *Tom* begins to rub his eies, and gruntles, loath to rise, still she thumps him and told him there was some body at Door, by degrees, tho with much ado she gets *Tom* to creep out of his nest, they all the while knocking at Door. But now comes the mischief! *Tom* hears 'em knock and would slip on his cloaths to let 'em in, but could find no Breeches; long hunted he up and down the Room, but all labour in vain, no Breeches were to be found. *Fernelia* seeing him so slow to go to the Door bawls out, *You Lubber what d'ee intend to do? will you open the Door, or not?* *Tom* replies he could not find his Breeches, and without his Breeches he would not go: while *Tom* and his Mistress stood jarring together the rest awakened, and seeing it was day began to look for their cloaths, but none could make a complete suit, some wanted a stocking, another wanted a shoe, a third wants his Perrywig and Coat, in short they were all in a great trouble, not knowing in the World what to do; the People at Door still continuing knocking so that abundance were gathered together before the house, one not knowing anothers business. At last *Fernelia* prevailed with her Paramour *Tom* to go down

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breechless, and return one answer or other. Who so soon as he enquired who there was, heard a diversity of voices and that of Women as well as Men, was at a stand whether he should open the Door or no; for notwithstanding his excuses, as that his Mistress was not a stirring and the like, they still insisted to come in. They above hearing who were at Door, by their Voices which they knew, strictly forbid *Tom* to open the Door, and held a Consultation among themselves what was best to be done in this case. Some were for running out at the Back-door, but it being high light day, and people all abroad it was not held for good, for that the Men wanted their Breeches, & the Women either their Gowns or Petticoats. At length it was concluded by mature deliberation that *Fernelia* should go to the Window and demand what they would have. But looking out she espied the *School* coming with half a dozen Women, who were the Wives of those Men that were within; upon which she ran up and gave them warning, and pray'd them as they tendered their wellfar, to run out at the Back-door, with such cloaths as they had; upon which some ran out as they were, others supplied themselves with *Diomedes* his cloaths, in short they ran all out like so many mice at the appearance of a Cat, leaving *Fernelia* alone  
with

*of the Decay'd Merchant.* 245

with her two Men and Maids. By that time they were all got out came the Officer to the Door, who upon his knocking was let in with an infinite train of People, as well those that were concerned, as others, who in spite of all they could do rushed in. The *Schout* seeing the Back-door open, ran out that way, where he was informed by the Neighbourhood what way his Game lay, which he pursued, taking only a Merchants Book-keeper 2 Vintners and a Shoemakers Wife, who, to make their escape went aboard a small vessel, but the Master not daring to conceal them when he saw, the *Schout* come to demand'em, surrenders them all into his hand; upon which they were carried half naked thro the streets to the great amazement of all the Town, and so committed to safe Custody, where after 16 days they had a Hearing where the *Schout* made a heavy demaund, either a corporal Penalty and Banishment, or an Equivalente sum of Money, and such as neither of the Vintners was able to pay without Ruin of their Families: so that their Wives who were the Parties aggrieved wrought all they could that they might be banished; which sentence was passed upon them. The Book-keeper was for this and other Crimes, which he was found guilty of, condemned to be publicly whipt upon the Scaffold, and set in

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the *Rasp*-house for 13 years; and as for the Shoemakers Wife she saved them that labour having that Morning her Sentence was read strangled her self in the Dungeon with her Garters.

The rest who escaped the hands of Justice for that time, either fled, or reconciled themselves at Home, the Servants to their Masters, and the Men to their Wives, who knew well that what the Schout demanded would tend to their own Ruin, whether Money or Banishment, for which reason they rather chused to brook such enormities, than seek revenge which would cost themselves so dear.

*Diomedes* either out of Fear or Shame absented himself so long, till *Fernelia* had made sale of all they had in the House and Shop, which she converted into Gold, intending to run away with her Paramour (as not long after she did) But *Diomedes* coming home prevented her Journey for that time. So soon as he entred in he saw all the Goods taken down and the shelves empty, as also all the Furniture that was in the whole house, at first concluded, that he had made a Cudgel for his own pate, and that the Schout had made a seizin of all they had for this Delinquency, for as yet he had no certain information how things went, and she for her part palliated the business so long  
as

as she could. All the Arguments he used were but lost labour ; for she scolded as hard as ever , and threatned to publish his Roguery to the World , which he knew was the High way to be hang'd. He therefore resolves with himself not to make any stir till he had got as much as he could by *Zenodor* , his Implement of Credit , and afterwards revenge himself of her and leave the Town.

With this Resolution he went to an *English* Merchant with whom he made a bargain for some Kerseys and Leed , amounting to 4300 *gild*. but treating upon the Conditions of Payment , *Diomedes* would have him to deliver the Goods upon Credit , which the Merchant would in no wise yield to ; *Diomedes* therefore offers him the security of *Zenodor* : the Merchant replies that he knew him not, but within a day or 2 he would give him an Answer upon the Exchange. *Diomedes* for that time goes his way , and the Merchant subtilly went to enquire after *Zenodor* , sending first one to offer him a Purchase for a small sum pretending that he was a little necessitated for Money at that time , which was the only reason of his so doing , and that he should not suppose that it was a defective or endamaged Commodity but worth a 3d more if sold upon Credit. *Zenodor* makes his excuse and said he was out

of Cash. Besides this he sent another Emissarie or Explorer, who asked him if he would sell him either *Rent-briefs*, Lands, or Houses, saying that he was to take a Journey for *Italy* where he was to stay some years, and was willing therefore to see his Money well bestow'd before he took his Journey thither, adding thereby, that he would not stick out for a small matter if he saw any Purchase that liked him well. This *Zenodor* also waved, saying he had none of all these to convey at that time. When the Merchant understood this, he gathered that *Zenodor* having neither Money to lay out upon an advantageous bargain, professing Merchandise; nor yet any Estate to alienate, that he was no sufficient Person. *Diomedes*, not daring to appear upon the Exchange, went the day appointed very early to the Merchants house, and desires to know if he was satisfied with his Man. The Merchant would not make him any direct reply as to the person, but desired him to excuse him, for that he was not minded to part with his Goods but for ready Money, with which Answer *Diomedes* was fain to march, sadly troubled that his Machine fail'd him, in a time so constringent and urging.

When he saw that the angry Starres, had made this Enterprize unlucky, and that his attempt had such a poor Event, as

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in comparing it with the success of his former undertakings he reckoned this. He fell upon another Project which was the last and worst he ever met with, if all circumstances be considered.

He applies himself to a Merchant who had a Bargain of Elephants Teeth, Indico and Rice. Of these three Commodities he bought to the value of 7500 gild: but, *a Child once burn'd dreads the Fire*. Or as the Latin Adage, *Idus piscator sapit*, So the Merchant who had but newly had a mistake in giving Credit so lightly, would not part with his Goods without either ready Money or very good security. *Diomedes* not able to make up such a sum complete, promised him that he would give him the security of *Zenodor*. But this Merchant as well as the former refused to deliver any parcel of the Wares till he had spoke with *Zenodor*: but told him because he would not detain him in suspense, that he would go with him after Exchange time and see if he liked him, seeing *Zenodor* was a Gentleman he had no knowledge of, neither personally, nor by fame. Upon this they took their leaves of each other. *Diomedes* immediately repairs to his Fool *Zenodor* and tells him of the business, praying him to humor the matter well, which *Zenodor* promised to do, and in order thereto sends his Cashier and Foot-

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man out with Baggs of Counters and Leaden Plates, instructing them how they should demean themselves, and be ready at such an Hour. *Diomedes* at the time appointed went to dance attendance, and brings his Merchant with him: where coming *Zenodor* sat at Table, but ordered them to step into the Parlour, promising to wait upon them immediatly. The Merchant seeing that *Zenodor* had a great house and rich furniture (at least in the Room where he then sat) seemed to be well satisfied with the Partie, but the more when he saw so many bags brought in one after another: but by that time *Zenodor* was come down to know their pleasure one of the men unfortunately let one of the Bags fall, which being very ponderous burst up the seem, and thereupon let all the leaden pieces tumble about the Floor, which the Merchant seeing, began to smell a Cheat and distrust his Partie. *Diomedes* and *Zenodor* were so suddenly surprized, that they could not invent any speedy excuse to palliate the Roguery. The Merchant seeing them so look one upon another and both blush, concluded that it was a stratagem and consequently without any open offence let them know that if *Diomedes* would have the Goods and pay down ready Money, he would not dispose of them within a certain of Days, or otherwise he



desired to be rid of his bargain : so that *Diomedes* found there was no hopes of taking the Cully that bout. When the Merchant was gone they began to chide the man who let it fall , altho durst not much provoke him , well knowing in what posture affairs stood with them.

Monfr. *de Kleyn* (for that was the Merchants name) was well satisfied with the accident , being delivered (as he had reason to beleeve) from the snare , yet could not but tell it abroad how narrowly he had scap'd a scouring ; which was presently noised through the Town , & brought to long from hand to hand , that the Creditors of *Diomedes* came to have notice of it : Of which *Diomedes* himself being sensible foresaw into what state he was like to fall , especially when all had him in the eie for a Cheat.

And besides all this the continual storming of *Fernelia* , who was now grown past shame , and so impudent that she began to be a Town-talk was the occasion of some fear on the other hand , for he was sure that in case Justice should demand him , *Fernelia* would be the first that should betray him , as indeed hearing of this mischance she in-  
deavoured to do , having sent Letters abroad to severall places where she knew he had offended , as also to every one of his Credi-

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tors respectively, though with that secrecy that none knew from whence, inclosing in each of them a Pasquil in Rhyme which she caused also to be printed, and cried about streets by the Hawkers, to the great detriment of our decay'd Merchant.

The same night that she had dispersed those infamous Libels against her husband, she held a consult with her Paramour to run away and having changed all she had into Gold and Jewels, the next morning betimes she set forth, leaving her husband, house and the remainder of the Goods.

*Diomedes* and *Zenodor* also having a hint of what was noised abroad, were sensible that an incumbent danger threatned them, they gathered together as much Moneys as they could on a sudden and set forward for *Paris*.

*Brutus* the Mercer whose Shop *Diomedes* had pillaged, and the injured Parties at *Rotterdam* coming now by these Libels to hear who it was that had been the Aggressor, went privately to the *Schout* with Intention to apprehend him: but coming to his house found nothing but a Child of 3 years old crying in bed, and a few pieces of Silk, which it seems *Fernelia* thought not vendible. They therefore dispatched Letters abroad describing *Zenodor* and *Diomedes*, that they might be apprehended.

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The Debtors also came and seized upon what was left, and by an Order from Court exposed all to public sale, of which when they had made a Dividend could not make One per cent. The Child was immediatly sent away to the Hospital to be educated, among the Orphans.

When *Diomedes* and *Zenodor* were arrived at *Paris*, and *Zenodor* no more able to be any way instrumental to his Patron, *Diomedes* demands the Goods which the other had in possession. And advised him to seek for a new Employment; but *Zenodor* foreseeing approaching poverty and himself destitute of further means to live with that splendor which he had of late done, would in no wise yield to the delivery of what he had, alledging that he ought to have an equal share in them, since his help was the greatest Instrument in the acquisition of all *Diomedes* of late enjoyed. In brief the dispute continued so long between them, that they drew upon the Place and pushed several times at each other. Till *Diomedes* receiving a stab under the right Pap fell down to the Earth. *Zenodor* seeing him so disabled had notwithstanding his Fury compassion of his Antagonist, and instead of dispatching him help him up upon his Feet, brought him to a Chirurgeon and used all possible means he could, to bring him to a recovery: beg-

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ging forgiveness a hundred times, and pray'd him notwithstanding this fatal difference to continue friendship, with many solemn promises never to forsake him. *Diomedes* knowing what occasion he had for his help, did freely pardon him, altho, *mente mansit alta repôstum*, he inwardly continued the old Grudge, and fully resolved to revenge himself upon him.

When our Patient was restored to his former health, he prayed *Zenodor* to take a Journey with him to *Rotterdam* where he would fetch 8000 *gild.* in Gold that he had hid in the Ground.

*Zenodor* not in the least distrusting any thing show'd himself very free and willing to go with him, and the next day they both left *Paris*: but after 2 days Journey *Diomedes* feigned himself very sick and prayed *Zenodor* that he would be so kind as to fetch a Doctor, which he did.

The Doctor came and feeling his Pulse could not find any great matter of alteration; yet unwilling to declare that his opinion was so, lest he should miss of such a benefit, he orders him some gentle Medicines with a cordial Julep, and for that time leaves him to the care of *Zenodor*, withall telling him he must keep warm and use all means he could to get a little sweat.

The next day *Diomedes*, appears still worse  
than

than before, and therefore willed Zenodor to take the Journey himself, describing him to a hair the place where he should delve for the Treasure, which Zenodor taking for a great mark of Friendship and Fidelity made himself ready for the Journey. On the fourth day that they had stayed there, Zenodor sets forward betimes in the morning, with Instructions from Diomedes that if he could not find the place that he should give him further directions afterwards by writing, and therefore appointed him a place where he should take up his lodgings when there. So soon as he was set out, Diomedes dispatches several Letters by Post to his Creditors at *Amsterdam*, to whom Zenodor was ingaged for him in great Sums, as also to some others whom Zenodor had helped him to rob, informing them that at such a time and place they should find Zenodor, who had by him a considerable Sum of Money.

So soon as those of *Amsterdam* received those Letters, they strove who should be there first, without giving notice to one another, for that they supposed he had so much Money about him: and coming there nearly about one time they apprehended and transported him to *Amsterdam*, where he was very fairly committed to Prison, there to abide and expect his Trial. Zenodor was hereat mainly surprized, but more vexed.

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vexed at the treacherous dealings of *Dionides*, for the Letters he had written were shown him.

After 21 days was a Goal-delivery, and *Zenodors* Case laid open before the *Schepens*, where not only a long Indictment was brought against him, of many enormous Cheats, but also house-breaking and Delinquencies of a higher nature, which being so clear and hainous were adjudged worthy of Death: whereof he received Sentence and was executed upon the Scaffold, where the Executioner lay his head before his Feet.

However we must mind you that before the Sentence was pronounced they urged him to a candid Confession of all he had done, and willed him to detect his Accomplices: which he (in hopes that the Bench would show him some mercy) did: and amongst the rest *de la Grange*, who during his noble house-keeping acted for Steward. The same *de la Grange*, as he told them was frequently at the House of one *Joffr. P*——a notable Bawd near the *Lutheran* Church, upon the *Cingle*, which was a Rendezvous for a Gang of Rascallity; that lived meerly upon Cheating, Theft and other Villany. Upon these directions the Substitute *Schout* was sent the next morning by 3 of the Clock, where he by an order from the full Benche broke open  
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the Doors and found *de la Grange* and 5 Jews, each in bed with a Whore. The Jews who are in such cases according to a special Ordinance, to that end provided are carried to Goal and left to the Rigour of the Law. The Mock-Steward was also served the like, and about 2 Moneths after received his Sentence, which was to be whipt upon the Scaffold, cauterised with a hot Iron in the shoulder and put into the Rasp-house, there to remain 8 years, altho not long after he broke out, but for a Murther committed upon a *Hamburger*, was brought to Goal and shortly after beheaded with the Sword.

*Diomedes* who staid no longer at that place than that night he sent away the Letters for *Holland*, ran away under a colour of going to take the air, without paying his Host; betaking himself directly for *Paris*.

Being arrived here he was at a great strait, what course to take in hand to supply himself with money, seeing himself now for want of that brought to the extreme point. All that ever he could invent or think upon was to litle purpose, for he could not see any mean honest, or dishonest, to redress his decaying state. He rummaged all his Pockets to see if there were any of those Golden Reliques left, nay the very lining of his Breeches. In this desolate Condition he wandred up and down the streets

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streets ready to starve for want of relief, that finally he was fain to sell his Cloaths and purchase an old patched Suit, in which he could with more confidence ask an Alms.

It happened upon a time that coming to a House where they sold very rich Point-work and seeing none in the shop, made bold to enter in, thinking that if any chanced in the mean while to come forth to beg relief, but when he saw that none came down, he assumed the freedom to *lift* a very rich Cravat, of *Point de Veneza* which he cunningly drew up his sleeve and so marched off with his purchase that he had bought without bargaining, and paid for without Money: which he soon found a Chapman for, selling it for 90. Livers, which was not half the value.

Having received the Money he went to a Salesman to buy him a new Suit, and by the way met with a great croud of People, who were looking upon a Fist-duel between two fellows in *Pesants* habit, which when over, he speeds him away to Market where coming, to a shop he looked him out a Suit amounting to the value of 60 *gl.* which having drawn on, and found it fitted him to a hair he began to look for Money in his old Breeches; but much mistaken for some of the *Horn-thumb* Gang had done that



that Office for him. Our decayd Merchant feeling no bottom in his Pocket was in a main consternation, and turning to the Salesman told him how his Money was gone; at which the Man in a fit of Anger unharnesses his Worship, where in hopes of handsell, gets a handfom breed of Lice. Diomedes on the Contrary in hopes of new Rigging, was fain to draw on his old Robes again and depart, and glad that he made his escape so.

With a sorrowfull and desperate heart he berook himself without the Town, where sitting down humbly upon the Grasse, by the way side he fell to his old Trade again.

After he had fitten here 2 or 3 days, came a poor Woman, who seeing a Personage of her Calibre, stept towards him, entring into discours together, she desired him to inform her of the Guise of begging about Paris. Diomedes thus unexpectedly meeting with a Female of his own trade, with a rayment of divers colours, stockings turn'd over the shoes, hair loose about her head, her face scorched with the sun, never a shift to her back, and in short all foul and nasty, yet well proportioned of Body, he stood staring, thinking he had else where seen her, for both by her Voyce and Countenance, as well as her Language, being

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being something guilty of the *Netherdutch* Idiom and Prosodie, he was certain that she was an *Amsterdammer*, and after a serious view descried the very features of his dear *Fernelia*; on whom notwithstanding her unworthiness in times past, he had hearty Compassion, seeing her in such a low condition. Longer could he not conceal himself, but as a fire that burns inwardly seeks a Vent and to burst out, so the eager affections of that close, tho unhappy union, would not endure to be smothered. However he kept himself somewhat strange, altered his voice, and made her such wary answers as she could not perceive who he was, till such times as himself listd to detect it. He inquired further after her Life, Parentage, State and Fortune, which she punctually replied to, yet with that obscurity and mental reservation that had he not known the matter before hand, should have gathered very little from the rehearsal she made of her Course of Life: but in the mids of this Discourse, she observed tears run down his cheeks and his eyes full, called to mind his Physnomy and upon her challenging him he altered his voice again being no longer able to restrain himself, which confirmed the matter.

Upon this they embraced each other, and she acknowledged him for her husband:

as he also owned her for his wife, resolving for the future to be partakers of one Fortune and be sharers in what Providence should allot them. *Diomedes* began to enquire of her, how she came into that calamitous condition, which we shall impart to the Reader in a few words, and show how that Vertue promotes a Save to the Dignity of a Lord, when on the contrary Vice reduces those that are advanced to the highest pitch of Fortune to the lowest degree, and vilest condition fatal to Men.

“After I had been, *quoth she*, raised to such a Condition and to that Estate by your means I verily beleev'd it impossible for me ever to fall to the State wherein I now am; and as those who by Money could command all that their Heart lusted, so I who was not bark-bound for that, was loath to deny my self of any thing that might indulge my senses, and not only contented herewith I sought further to pamper my self with what was not lawful, and by consequence violated my marriage-bed (as is not unknown to you) but seeing how that it was not safe for me to make any delay at *Amsterdam*, for fear of being taken notice of by Justice, and how that I was manifestly going to decay, I resolv'd to make Sale of all I could in your absence and run away with my Pa-  
“ramour.

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“ramour. But being come into Flanders  
“some words happened to rise between,  
“us which (as I beleevd) were by him  
“created on purpose, for being upon the  
“way & far from any Village he tied me  
“to a tree, stript me naked and took the re-  
“mainder of the Gold I had with him, &  
“leaving me there to shift for my self since  
“which time I could never hear of him.  
“After I had lay here more than 50 hours  
“not knowing whether Hunger or Cold  
“should be the greatest cause to bring me  
“to my end, I happened to hear some  
“people in the Woods by night, and calling  
“out they came and released me, but not  
“without forcing me to their wills. Being  
“thus set at Liberty I wandred many days  
“through the deserts not daring by reason  
“of my nakedness appear at any house, or  
“speak to any body that I saw: my Lodging  
“was among Cattel upon the cold ground,  
“and my Diet what I could find upon  
“Trees, but being now in despair of  
“ever coming to my former health, or  
“recovering my strength again, I lay down  
“with an intent to dy and to endeavor no  
“longer to keep my soul and body toge-  
“ther. Lying in this condition more likely  
“to feed Wolves than Worms, came a brace  
“of Hounds in pursuit of a Hare, which  
“having lost and finding me they began to  
“howl

howl out, and would not leave me till  
 the Huntsman himself came, who seeing  
 a naked Woman was strangely altered at  
 the matter, and having compassion on  
 me began to enquire how I came there  
 in that deplorable condition, but through  
 faintness I could hardly make him any  
 answer, only I desired him to trouble me  
 no more, but suffer me to take my  
 leave of the World which had ever been  
 a burthen to me: but he not willing to  
 see me perish went to some Cottage not  
 far from thence where he fetched me a few  
 old cloaths which he threw about my  
 body, but when he would have raised  
 me, found I could not stand upright upon  
 my leggs, but was fain to set me upon his  
 horse and hold me up, bringing me in  
 that manner to his own house, where he  
 set me by the Fire, and gave me warm  
 Diet till I began to recover my strength.  
 Nor did the kindness of that *true Christian*  
 stop here and appear only in that, but  
 being himself a man of mean condition  
 and slender Fortune, he went to his Lord  
 and other Gentlemen round about in the  
 Countrey, who sent me both Money and  
 Habit, besides many daily Visits that they  
 made and comforted me. When I was  
 well recovered and a litle hearty, I took  
 my leave of them all respectively, going  
 to

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“to their houses and thanking them for  
 “their great Bounty and Charity, but more  
 “especially the Honest Huntsman. One  
 “of the Gentlewomen who had been the  
 “most liberal of the rest at my departure  
 “gave me 2 Pieces of Gold with a Letter  
 “to a Person of Quality at *Paris*, desiring  
 “them to admitt of me into their household:  
 “but such was my unhappiness that going  
 “over a Bridge I was met with a small com-  
 “pany of Soldiery, which I took for Deser-  
 “ters, these after they had miserably plun-  
 “dered ravished me by turns. The greatest  
 “favour they were pleased to show me was  
 “restoring me the Letter which I was to  
 “bring to *Paris*, for that they knew it was  
 “not serviceable to them: altho when I  
 “was arrived at *Paris* that for the honor of  
 “the Lady in the Countrey I durst not de-  
 “liver it, since I was so meanly apparreled,  
 “so that in conclusion I was forced to take  
 “this trade of begging upon me, in which  
 “condition I have continued ever since, but  
 “find, alas! Charity is faint and cool, and  
 “envy as vigorous and hot among those  
 “of our Fortunes and profession, ———

More she would have said, but sorrow  
 pressing too hard upon her heart put a stop  
 to her proceeding in that Narrativ: and *Di-  
 medes* on the contrary desiring her to relate  
 no more, for that it wounded him to the  
 Heart.

Heart. The Tears that ran trickling down her Cheeks he wiped with a lap of his shatter'd weed, and asked her if she would be partaker of what he had to eat, which was a crust of mouldy Bread and a cruse of Spring-Water, that she thankfully accepted, and sat down by him.

So soon as Table was over, they fell into a Study what practise to follow to get into a fashionable way of living again; nor forgetting to rip up their former splendor, which was a greater grief to think upon, than their present calamity and despair. In short they did not approve of this course of Life, for calling to mind their former success and Fortune, they resolved to attempt higher things, and since Paris was a City well peopled, and consequently the best place for their turn, they betook themselves thither, where being arrived watched for their prey like the greedy Vultures, but finding nothing that they could live in 3 or 4 days time, *Diomedes* bethinks himself of a new Machine, and calling *Fernelia* asks her if she had not the Letter which was given her by the Lady in the Country with her; she answered, Yea. *Diomedes* therefore willed her to dress her self in the best wise she could and apply her self thither not knowing what Providence may allot them, since they were now put to their last shift.

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*Fernelia* was very unwilling to do it, since she was in such mean apparel, and might rather be looked upon as a Cheat, especially the Letter being of an old date, and if it were either transcribed or altered that the matter would smell the worse, the more if the Lady who delivered her the Letter should since have been at Paris. As to the first thing (reples *Diomedes*) you scruple at, there will be no great difficulty in it, the rather for that you have a just excuse consistent with Truth, which will rather be an advantage than a let to your purpose: but if in case the Lady has bin in Town since the date of this Letter, without Doubt, she will have discoursed the matter, and, as it were, broke the Ice before you, and given her an account of your former misfortune, which will the more induce them to beleve what has since verily befallen you.

These reasons moved her to hazard the matter and dressing her self in the best wise she could, waits her opportunity to deliver the Letters but was not suffered Admittance till she told one of the Pages that she had a Letter for his Lady, which she desired him to deliver. The Page receives the Letter and forthwith reached it over to a Gentleman-Usher who gave it the Lady. So soon as *Madame de Oquendo* had read the Letter (for so was her name) she sent for *Fernelia* and for an hour or two discoursed and examined



mined her about circumstances, fearing whether that it was the real hand-writing of the Lady, her Cousin. In short she ordered her to come after 8 days and she would her self in the mean time consider how to dispose of her, and with that left her and went into the Hall.

*Fernelia* finding here such good encouragement watched her opportunity, and after 8 days went to wait upon the Lady, who by that time had received a Letter from the Countrey, which happily confirm'd the other *Fernelia* delivered. *Madame d'Oquendo*, whose husband was a Spaniard, and she now and then a little possessed with Jealousie, was hardly willing to take her into the house, for that, as we have already mentioned, *Fernelia* was a Woman of a singular form. She nevertheless ordered her to stay there so long till she should hear of some other place.

*Fernelia* thus admitted into the household, got into good apparel and fed at a plentiful Table, began to look as lofty as ever, often wishing that she might but be rid of her Husband who came now and then to speak with her.

About 14 days after came another Letter from the Lady in the Countrey, which further confirmed that there was such a Letter sent by an indigent Person, and in all things agreeable

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to what the other specified, so that the *Parisian* Lady being now out of suspence as to the verity of the matter, used *Fernelia* very civilly and promoted her from the common rank of Servants, to the Quality of a Waiting Gentlewoman, and at last committed to her care all the House and Family.

Being thus on a sudden advanced, and of such repute in the sight of all the whole house, the Lady seldom ever troubled her self with the disposal of any thing, but left the management of the Market to *Fernelia*, who ever now and then imbezled something for her Darling, which she privately sent him with a charge never to come anigh the house, for fear of suspicion.

*Diomedes* willingly absents himself, having all his heart desired, but very impatient to play so long at small Games urges her often times by writing to make a shorter dispatch, which she nevertheless would in no case assent to, till forced to it by his frequent importunity, and personal visits which at last he presumed to make, which hatched a terrible mischief, and, *that Pitcher that had gone so often to the Well*, came home broke at last.

It was about the preparation against Lent, at what time some Noblemen of the *Romish* Faith, among other superstitious Rites, do usually hang their Private Chappels and  
Altars

Altars with Purple, covering all the Crucifixes and Images with the same, so that *Fernelia* professing skill in those things, was ordered to buy so much as they should have occasion for in the Chappel.

Which when done, all was hung and disposed of, save only two Windows; but coming too short, the Lady was not willing to buy any more, but taxed the Man that hung the Altar for being too profuse, and not observing that what they had bought should serve their turn. The man when thus chidden made answer that he had but made use of so many ells, and would have mered it in her presence: so that he clearly manifested that the fault lay not in him, upon which the Lady in person went to the Mercer to inquire whether they had any more of the same: The Mercer replied, that they had no more, nor that none in *Paris* had any such in 10 years: In short the Lady came to understand that *Fernelia* had bought so many Ells more than the man had used, so that the fault must needs ly in one of them three; either *Fernelia*, the Mercer, or the Upholsterer. However the Lady put all up in quietness and made no more talk of it, till *Diomedes* came according to his usual custome to pay his dear *Fernelia* a visit, having a new suit with a Vest and Lining of the very same Purple, whence she began

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to suspect that *Fernelia* had embezzled the Goods, and therefore imparted the matter to her sister at that time in the house with her. *Fernelia* hearing them often whisper, and by some other circumstances gathered that they had her in suspicion, resolved before 2 days were at an end to march off, and therefore gave *Diomedes* notice of it, who the next evening came to give attendance.

*Fernelia* packs up as much Plate and Jewels as she could very well come at, altho the latter she could not so easily come by, it being Lent, and a time when the *Parisians* appear with less splendour abroad than at other times. With this she steals clandestinely out at a back-door where she meets with *Diomedes*, who eased her of her burthen, both marching on a good pace till they thought that they were out of harms way.

A great Ingratitude ! but afterwards as well rewarded by the severity of Justice, as you shall shortly hear.

The Plate they converted into Money as soon as they could, till fearing that the Goldsmiths might have Tickets to apprehend them : so that what remained *Diomedes* melted, intending to sell it afterward when they had occasion for Money.

So long as this Money lasted they made  
good

good cheer, not sparing for any thing that might add to their delight but drawing towards the last mite, they berhought themselves of some other course to take in hand, whilst they had some Moneys at command.

It happened that pretty early in the morning he came to a Watchmaker, not far from the *Louvre*, who was very busy in hanging out his watches, having lay them in confused order. He prays the Watch-maker to read him a Letter, pretending that he could not make any sence of it, which the Watch-maker did not once refuse, but read and expounded it to him on the best wise he could. *Fernelia* in the mean while drew back her Arm and took up two Gold Watches (very clandestinely, *Diomedes* also seeing one very richly enameled made a shift to lift it without being taken notice of by the Watch-maker. But it seemed that a youth who sat behind at work seeing that, so soon as they were gone told his Master of it. The Watchmaker in all hast follows and siezes them, *Diomedes* would have stoutly denied the matter, but *Fernelia* was so altered that he confessed the crime, restored him the Watches and begged forgiveness of him. It is true, the Watchmaker would have done it, but having made a great concurrency of People together, he feared to

be called in question for it, said, he could not answer it if he did. While they disputed the case came an Officer of Justice who after a litle enquiry what there was to do, took *Diomedes* and *Fernelia*, and hurried them both to prison, where they were to remain till the next Goal-Delivery.

The Remainder of their Money was now speedily brought to a Catastroph, and being unacquainted with the Laws of the Countrey, they were in great distress, fearing that they should at that time take their leave of the World, but,

The Day for the Sessions appointed being come they were brought to Trial and since there was no evident token that they had before been convict of any other crime, the Bench was not so rigorous. The Sentence was to be whipt and seared in the shoulder with a hot Iron, and afterward Banished.

In this condition they were led out at the Gates of *Paris*, and set their course towards *Biscay*, where finding charity very cold by the way they resolved to hazard another risque. For passing by a fair house in the Countrey, they applied themselves to the Master, desiring to have a nights Lodging in the Barn or Stable, which was granted them. About midnight, they rose up when they supposed all to be secure and asleep, and lighting a Candle which they had in a  
dark

dark Lanthom, took out the Casement and so got into the house, where they found a Cabinet in which was six Silver plates, and 3 dozen of Spoons, besides a Saltfeller and 2 Porrengers, all of the same mettall, which they tooke away and marched out softly, tending towards *Bilboa*.

So soon as they were arrived there, they converted all into Money, thinking to imbarque themselves for *England*, and there to spend the rest of their Days, but as the Proverb saith, *When Knaves fall out, Honest men get their own*. *Diomedes* and *Fernelia*, fell into a hot contest, about I know not what trifle, so that words between them grew exceeding high, and *Fernelia* was so vexed that she resolved to send him to the Gallows, and make her self mistress of the Money; pursuant to which intent she went to one whom she intreated to assist her under the promise of a great reward. The Russian, who was a Person ever ready to do such a Turn, promised her that he would not fail to do his endeavor.

That night they consulted to leave *Diomedes* asleep, and having first taken all the Money, they paid the Hostess, and sent a Letter privately to the Prætor of the City who immediately went to apprehend him.

When *Diomedes* found how cases stood, that *Fernelia* had betray'd him, and was march'd

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march'd off with the Money, he gave notice of it to the Pretor, who thereupon dispatched some Persons with a *Pouvoir* to take her and bring her back to *Bilbao*. The Ships were also visited, and the high ways traced; till at last she was found in the house of a poor *Pesant*, not far from the City, where she had stay'd 2 nights, was brought to *Bilbao*, and there committed to safe Custody.

During the time of his Imprisonment came *Mordechai* the Jew to *Bilbao*; whom he had cheated of a considerable Sum of Money, as was mentioned pag. 72. who hearing that a *Hollander* was committed to prison, out of pure compassion went to visit him; but seeing that it was *Diomedes* instead of giving him comfort, aggravated the matter, and threatned to bring in his Action against him.

*Lebechea* seeing the Jew in earnest, acquainted his keeper, when he was gone, that such an one, and a Jew was there in the City, requiring him to acquaint the Gentlemen of the Inquisition with it, which the Keeper not daring to conceal, immediately went and detected him, upon which he was apprehended, examined, convicted of Judaism, and burn'd at the stake.

When *Diomedes* had been about 5 weeks in Prison he came to a Trial, and the *Pesant*



tant was sent for where he had stole the Plate, in order to prosecute him.

*Diomedes* and *Fernelia* were brought before the Seat of Justice, where the Judge first with an austere countenance threatned to put them to the Rack, but afterwards with more blandiloquence willed them to make a hearty Confession, which without many Arguments they did, and so received Sentence, *Diomedes* to be hang'd and *Fernelia* whipt. At the day appointed *Diomedes* was brought forth, and made a signal appearance of Repentance, altho not doubting of a Pardon till the last hour but much mistaken, for the Executioner without any delay perform'd his charge and duty. *Fernelia* altho by reason she was of the weaker sex, was more gently dealt with, yet what by the stripes she received, and what thro an inward smart and horror of Conscience she fell sick and died in the field. So, Courteous Reader, you have seen the Condign Punishment and Requital of an impious Life, and the Reward of Villany in him who had so unjustly rewarded others, whose wicked Projects had never respect to the best of Friends, nor ever spared his nearest Allies so long as his Will was seconded with his Power, and till F U N I S became his

F I N I S.

[illegible]

